

# THE LITERARY WORLD.

A Gazette for Authors, Readers, and Publishers.

No. 32.

NEW YORK, SATURDAY, SEPTEMBER 11, 1847.

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VOL. II.

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C. F. HOFFMAN, EDITOR.

## THE UNITED STATES COAST SURVEY.

This National work is advancing so steadily, and at the same time so quietly and unostentatiously, that we desire to help in extending information respecting its progress and its prospects. As a matter of contemporary scientific labor, as a national undertaking, and as a subject identified with the commercial welfare of the country, the Survey of the Coast of the United States, under the authority of Congress, has so general and real an interest that every intelligent citizen should have some knowledge of it.

When a work of such magnitude is going on tranquilly and without agitation, there is something in the very nature of such progress that gives assurance of vigorous and successful administration. There is assurance, too, of confidence in it,—of general belief that its vast responsibilities are faithfully discharged; and on this account, it is matter of congratulation, we think, that, although the Coast Survey is a subject of annual legislation, so little is heard of it in connexion with Congressional proceedings. The annual report of the Superintendent is communicated to Congress by the Secretary of the Treasury; estimates are submitted; the appropriation, recommended in the Report, is voted, and so the Survey goes on from year to year; the Superintendent and his Assistants and the persons employed in the very various duties of it are at work,—hard at work, and ceaselessly. Standing, as the Coast Survey does, both from the nature of the work and its administration, altogether aloof from party relations, it occupies a position due alike to its nationality and its importance. It has ceased to be a debatable topic; it is one of the unanimous subjects in Congress. There is general conviction of the necessity of the work, and what is of no less consequence, there is confidence in the manner in which it is conducted. Whatever doubts,—whatever conflict of opinion there may be on questions of policy, permanent or occasional—high duties or low duties—war or peace,—it is a settled thing that the National Survey of the Coast is to go on unto its completion,—till the sure knowledge, thus acquired, of every harbor and channel, current and shoal, along our extended shores, shall save commerce and life from the perils of what else would be wilful and guilty ignorance. We are glad, we repeat, that so little is heard of the Coast Survey from Congressional proceedings: one angry debate there would give it a far greater notoriety—an undesirable notoriety; but, instead of that, the results of the work have established its character, and are quietly building up the solid fame of Professor Bache, as the Superintendent of it. Profound science and practical energy combined have produced an unanimity of opinion respecting the Survey, and well-earned public confidence makes it safe from change or interruptions.

The tranquil progress of the Coast Survey, desirable as it is for any National work and especially for one of a scientific nature, makes it necessary occasionally to present to the public mind the magnitude and importance of the work, with some accounts of its condition from time to time. There is nothing in it that admits of any signal demonstration, calculated to astonish or impress the minds of men,—to make them feel how much is doing—how great is the extent and value of the undertaking to which the Nation has committed itself. The annual reports on the Survey, being of course of a scientific and somewhat technical

nature, and circulated, too, only as Congressional documents, are known but to a limited number of readers. Still fewer, perhaps, are those who, by visiting the Coast Survey Office at Washington, see the combination of labor there in working out the results of the field and water operations. There are many, therefore, in all probability, whose knowledge of the progress of the Survey will be no more than the chance observation of separate items of intelligence,—a newspaper notice, perhaps, of the Superintendent at one time engaged on a small island off the coast in the Gulf of Mexico, measuring a “base line,” or again at some station on the Atlantic, first at the North and then at the South; or the mention of some topographical party; or a line or two in the Shipping News, reporting a U. S. vessel having sailed on a surveying cruise; but such notices of the operations of the Survey are met with singly and by chance, and hardly suggest much, even to a reflective mind.

Again, it is not likely that the extent of the Survey will be appreciated by such direct personal observations as people have the opportunity of making. The signal-posts, marking some of the Survey stations, may be noticed along the Coast or in the interior,—it may be in Massachusetts or in New Hampshire,—noticed without any thought of their being also in Pennsylvania and Virginia, and the Carolinas, and along the Gulf of Mexico. The coaster sees them on Nantucket, and he knows of the work going on in that quarter; other men observe them along the involved irregularities of the shores of Chesapeake Bay, or in the neighborhood of Mississippi Sound, but these signs, separately seen, are seldom thought of as belonging to one great work, under the guidance of one mind. A small encampment may be seen on some sand-heap of an island or promontory in the sea, or perhaps on some elevated ground, fifty miles or more from the ocean, and the passer-by is surprised to hear that it has to do with the Survey of the Coast: the observing tents may be seen in one of the Middle States, or towards the Northern or Southern extremities of the Union. At equally remote distances the topographical parties may be encountered: a surveying vessel may be seen busy with the soundings and the currents of the Nantucket Shoals; another may be spoken exploring the Gulf Stream, and another at work near the mouths of the Mississippi: astronomical and magnetical observations at various stations, or at Cambridge, New York, Philadelphia, or Washington, may come to the direct notice of persons—here of one and there of another; these operations, apparently insulated, may be personally met with, but no impression is thus received, at least by people generally, of the extent of the operations or their combination in one large scheme. Even the published results,—the Maps issued from the Survey-office,—whether the general Coast maps, or the harbor maps—hardly give an adequate idea of the unity and the magnitude of the work, from which the attention is drawn away by the minuteness of detail and the miniature accuracy, which are of course the great merits of these admirable charts of particular sections of the shore or of particular harbors.

But, after examining one of these maps—say, the large map of New York Bay, or of New Bedford or Annapolis Harbors—a seaport or a bay-port, let any one turn his eye to a common map of the United States, and looking along the Shore line from the Northern limit of Maine down to the Southern cape of Florida, and thence along the borders of the Gulf of Mexico on to the last limit of Texas—

comprehending, all the while, the circumference of each island along the Coast, and the complex configuration of each Bay, and, most of all, the curious involutions of Chesapeake Bay, and the River banks up to the head of coasting navigation,—he may then form some idea of what an undertaking the Coast Survey of the United States is—of what is doing and what is to be done.

We have dwelt on the magnitude of the work, because it is that which shows the magnitude of the national responsibility in connexion with the Survey. And now, let us ask what is that responsibility—what is it that makes the Coast Survey a duty—and a national duty? God has given us, as a people, a vast territory, to use for our own good and for the good of our fellow-beings throughout the world; and with it we hold such territorial dominion over a portion of the open sea along the coast, as modern law appropriates to the nations of the Earth. With the gift of all this territorial power—on land and water—there is given to the nation the duty of improvement and cultivation, and of so exploring the national possessions that there may be commodious and safe access and intercourse—the best channels and harbors of refuge from the storm be made known—and that the rock, and the shoal, and the treacherous current shall cease to be the secret perils of the deep. Such is the moral tenure upon which every civilized nation holds its territory.

The very nature of this duty making it a national one, it rests as such upon the general government of the United States; and happily it is neither thwarted nor perplexed by sectional jealousies or constitutional scruples. Whenever the Constitution carries the commercial power of the general government, it carries—we will not say the power—but the *duty* of the Survey. No pretext of interpretation or of policy can contract it, for there cannot be right or reason for the omission or neglect of any strip of American shore—be it on the Atlantic,—the Gulf of Mexico—the Pacific Ocean—or those inland seas, the Great Lakes. The work that is to be done is to explore so as to give a trustworthy chart of every section of our Coast—whether on the Continent or the islands scattered along our shores,—the seaside and the shores of Bays and navigable Rivers, and the great extent of Lake Shore, on our Northern borders, from Sackett's Harbor, or rather from the Southern extremity of Lake Champlain to the furthest West of Lake Superior. That it will be the work of years matters not; the more the need of present exertion; it is to be done, and enough has been accomplished under the system now in operation to show how it may be done thoroughly and with prompt results—in a manner that fulfils the purposes of the Survey, and is worthy of the Country.

The Coast Survey being once recognised as a national duty, it follows manifestly that it is a duty to be carried on by the Government vigorously; and by the Government, we mean of course Congress as well as the Executive, and the Superintendent and officers, who are directly charged with the work. As the Survey gives forth its results, those results are immediately followed by their commercial benefits, and therefore the appropriations for the work should be commensurate with its practicable and efficient progress. The most sagacious policy and the truest economy will be simply this,—to appropriate without stint, from year to year, what can be well worked with. Why the Survey should never be suffered to loiter, before its completion, for lack of means,

is obvious from this,—that the importance of it can have no other measure than that of the value of the commerce which is unceasingly flowing in and out of the many ports of a coast so extended—on the Ocean and on the Lakes, and along the banks of many rivers, and, what is more, the value of human life that is ventured on the waters. What statistics can give an idea of the worth of the foreign commerce, for instance, of New York or Boston—the coasting trade of Philadelphia—or that more internal commerce which passes in and out of such harbors as Buffalo or Cleveland; or of the numbers of lives concerned in such navigation and exposed to its dangers? Now it is directly in the way of the largest and richest portion of the foreign and domestic commerce of the country, that during the past year there has been discovered by the Coast Survey, a Shoal six miles south of any known danger, out of sight of land, in the midst of deceptive currents—unmarked and unknown except to the lost. A portion of the sea, so frequently traversed and so familiarly known as the neighborhood of the Nantucket Shoals might have been supposed to be accurately known, but the careful and exact processes of the Coast Survey discover a shoal hitherto unknown, lying for a distance of near two miles,—having in some places only eight feet of water, and surrounded with a treacherous depth, so that a vessel may have a cast of 15 or 20, or even 25 fathoms, and in a moderate breeze be aground in five minutes: and this danger lies in the usual track of vessels between New York and Europe; and all those from Boston bound south to any port on the American coast, to the West Indies, or to the Southern Atlantic ocean, pass in the neighborhood of it. In the Appendix to Professor Bache's last Report, we find a letter addressed to him in December last, by the Presidents of sixteen Boston Insurance Companies, acknowledging the receipt of the charts of this "New South Shoal," discovered by one of the Surveying parties during the last Summer; it is with justice they add:

"The determination of this hidden danger, lying, as it does, in the direct path of the great European trade from and to New York, of the West India trade from this and the eastern ports, and of the coasting trade between the New England and southern States, is a very valuable help to the security of our foreign and domestic navigation.

"Since this discovery was announced, several cases have been recalled of vessels that have either actually struck the bottom or been in great peril in this vicinity. They were supposed to be near the old South Shoal, and to have been carried out of their course by strong currents or unavoidable mistakes in their reckoning. In some instances great blame has fallen on the commanders, as it now appears, without cause. Possibly the steamship President was lost on this spot.

"The services hitherto rendered by the Coast Survey have promoted the best interests of the country, by contributing to lessen the loss of life and property on the water; and we have no doubt that other discoveries as valuable as this remain to reward its labors, particularly on the shores of the southern States."

This shoal, and also a shoal spot in the Vineyard Sound, were discovered, it is proper to specify, by the hydrographic party in the U. S. Surveying Schooner, under the command of Lieutenant Commanding Charles Henry Davis.

Whatever probability there may be in the conjecture respecting the fatal disaster of the steamship "President," which, it is known, was last seen in the dangerous neighborhood

just spoken of, it suggests some reflections which cannot lightly be dismissed. We have referred to the duty of the Coast Survey chiefly in its relation to ourselves, our own citizens, and our own interests; but the duty has a much larger scope; it is commensurate with obligations to commercial Christendom. The foreign ship, that is welcomed to our ports, sails in and out from them, trusting to our pilots and our charts. The knowledge needed for such navigation is got as we can give it. It would be treacherous hospitality to expose the foreign ship, visiting our shores, to the jeopardy of stupid or incompetent pilotage: it is very imperfect and indeed perilous hospitality to furnish charts that give no warning of an unseen shoal, and which by ignorant omission may actually lure the misguided vessel to its destruction. It is shipwreck in its most cruel form, when the ship, with its rich freight of life and merchandise, perishes near its port,—perishes from some unknown cause of destruction, and, though nigh the coast, to be heard of no more. We may remark, however, as one of the happy developments of modern civilization, that nations, recognizing the duty of providing, whether for their own or foreign traders, correct means of information respecting their shores and harbors, are engaged in careful surveys for this purpose. The survey of the coast of France is, we believe, completed; the ordnance-survey of the British Islands is in progress; Russia, Prussia, Sardinia, and other European governments are engaged in similar works. The government of the United States, with its extended water-boundaries, has more to do than any, and from this the practical inference is that it must be done vigorously—adequately to the needs of the country and honorably to the scientific character of those to whom the work is intrusted.

The plan on which the Coast Survey has been conducted for some three or four years past, and which was introduced by Professor Bache, soon after his appointment, is that the work is not confined to one section of the country. It is in progress in different parts of the coast; and the resulting maps are published as the work proceeds, so that for example, charts of New Bedford or New Haven harbors may be published simultaneously with charts of the Delaware or of Annapolis harbor. This plan of extending and distributing the work has now received the repeated sanction of Congress and of the Treasury Department, which has the general direction of the Survey, and may be considered as in successful operation. It is proved to have great advantages in many respects; in point of economy, partly from the division of labor, and the conduct of the work, according to the season, at the North or at the South; in yielding earlier results upon parts of the coast, which otherwise would not be reached for years, and in securing a more equal distribution among the States of the Union, of the benefits to be derived from a work purely national in its character.

During the last year, which formed the subject of the Superintendent's report, transmitted by the Secretary of the Treasury to the last Congress, parties of the Coast Survey were at work in fifteen States, viz. Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, Rhode-Island, Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, Delaware, Maryland, Virginia, North Carolina, South Carolina, Alabama, and Mississippi. The estimates for the present year proposed operations also in Georgia, Louisiana, Texas, and possibly Florida, so that the Survey may be described at the present time as

in actual operation in eighteen or nineteen States.

For the systematic prosecution of the Survey, the Superintendent has divided the whole extent of Shoreline into Nine Sections of such general equality as is attainable, the work to be carried on in them in such a manner that as the sections close on each other they shall be mutually verified. The division of the Coast is described as follows:

"No. 1, or eastern section, from Passamaquoddy bay and the St. Croix, to Point Judith, including the coast of Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island.

"No. 2, from Point Judith to the capes of the Delaware (to Cape Henlopen), including the coast of the States of Connecticut, New York, New Jersey, Pennsylvania, and the greater part of Delaware.

"No. 3, from the capes of the Delaware to the capes of the Chesapeake (Cape Henry), including the coast of a part of Delaware, of Maryland, and part of Virginia.

"No. 4, from the capes of the Chesapeake to Cape Fear, including the coast of part of Virginia and the whole of North Carolina.

"No. 5, from Cape Fear to Cumberland sound (St. Mary's river), including the coast of South Carolina and Georgia.

"No. 6, from Cumberland sound (St. Mary's river) to St. Joseph's bay, on the west coast of the peninsula of Florida.

"No. 7, from St. Joseph's bay to Dauphin island, at the entrance to Mobile bay, including the coast of part of Florida and the whole of the coast of Alabama.

"No. 8, from Dauphin island to Vermilion bay, including the coast of Mississippi and a considerable part of that of Louisiana.

"No. 9, from Vermilion bay to the boundary, including the remainder of the coast of Louisiana and the coast of Texas."

The general state of the work will appear from the following summary given, with reference to the above arrangement, by the Superintendent in his last report, dated November 25, 1845:

"Of these sections the eastern (No. 1) includes the greatest extent of shore line, but also presents the greatest facilities for the execution of the work.

"The survey of one of the nine sections (No. 2) is in general completed, and that of six others (Nos. 1, 3, 4, 5, 8, and 9) is in progress. The work remaining to be done in No. 2 can be executed gradually, as parties are disposable for it.

"In sections 1 and 3 the work is in full progress, the field parties being engaged in different portions of the sections. These embrace the coast of Maine, New Hampshire, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island, and of part of Delaware, Maryland, and Virginia.

"A full beginning of the survey has been made in Nos. 4 and 5, embracing the coast of North Carolina and part of Virginia, and the coast of Mississippi and Louisiana; and I shall present gradually the estimates necessary for giving the same efficiency to the work in these sections as in Nos. 1 and 3. The preliminary operation of a reconnaissance is not expensive. Next in order are the triangulations and astronomical observations, which prepare for the topographical and hydrographical parts of the work, so that the progress is one of increasing activity from the reconnaissance forward, until all the operations of the survey are embraced, when the limit of expenditure allowed for the section is reached.

"Reconnaissances introductory to the operations in sections 3 and 9, on the coast of South Carolina and Georgia, and of Texas, have been ordered."

The progress of the work during the year ending November, 1846, is thus summed up:

"In section No. 1, the primary triangulation has extended its lines into New Hampshire and

Maine. The stations occupied being the most northerly ones in Massachusetts, one astronomical station has been occupied, and magnetic observations have been made at suitable points of the coast. The secondary triangulation of the southern part of Cape Cod has been completed, and the lines extended over the cape and the western shore of Massachusetts bay. The secondary triangulation of Boston harbor has been commenced. The topography of Martha's Vineyard, the island of No Man's Land, of Nantucket, and of the main from Wood's Hole, to include Hyannis, has been completed. The survey of the shoals south of Nantucket, and of Nantucket sound, has been commenced. The harbors of Edgartown and Nantucket have been surveyed. Further observations for differences of longitude from European observations, have been obtained at Portland, Cambridge, and Nantucket.

"In section No. 2, magnetic observations for the chart of the Delaware and Little Egg Harbor have been made. Verifications of topography have been made. Additional observations for differences of longitude and for latitude have been obtained at Philadelphia. The currents of Long Island sound have been in part investigated. Additional soundings have been taken.

"In section No. 3, the primary triangulation has been carried from the Kent island base south, to near the mouth of the Potomac. The primary triangulation across from the Chesapeake to the Capitol and Naval Observatory has been in progress. Further astronomical and magnetic observations have been made. The secondary triangulation has been carried down the bay nearly as far as the primary, and has covered the Eastern bay, the Chester, Wye, Choptank, South and West rivers, and part of the Patuxent. The unfinished portion of the topography from the head of the Chesapeake to Baltimore, of the shores of the Patapsco and rivers north of it, has been completed. That of the Chester river and adjacent shores of the bay, the South and West rivers, and Sassafras, has been commenced. That of the western shore of Kent island has been in part finished. The hydrography has included the upper part of the Chesapeake, from Poole's island to the Susquehanna, and below Kent island to near the mouth of the Patuxent, the South and West rivers, Eastern bay, the Susquehanna, Northeast, Bush, Gunpowder, Middle, and Back rivers, and part of Chester river and its approaches.

"In section No. 4, astronomical observations have been made at one station on Bodie's island. The primary and secondary triangulations have been carried over Albemarle and Roanoke sounds, from 'the marshes' to Carroon's point, and the triangulation of the Pasquetank has been commenced.

"A reconnaissance of the coast of South Carolina and Georgia (section No. 5) has been commenced.

"In section No. 6, the primary and secondary triangulations have been extended from the entrance of Mobile bay, westward, to Horn island. Observations of tides and currents have been made, and the preliminary survey of Horn island channel has been made.

"A reconnaissance of the coast of Texas (section No. 9) has been ordered.

"The exploration of the Gulf stream, from the latitude of Sandy Hook to that of Cape Hatteras, has been made upon three sections across the stream.

"The magnetic telegraph has been used to ascertain the difference of longitude between the Washington and Philadelphia Observatories, as an introduction to operations on a larger scale.

"The determination of differences of longitude from Europe, by the chronometers of the Boston steam vessels, has been continued.

"The office computations of the observations of 1844 and part of 1845 have been completed. The computations of astronomical observations, for difference of longitude from European observations, have made good progress.

"The charts of New Bedford and Annapolis harbors (surveyed in 1844), promised in my last report, have been published; also the chart of Fisher's Island sound and the middle sheet of Delaware bay and river, the chart of Little Egg Harbor, a sketch of the newly discovered South Shoal ('new South Shoal') off Nantucket (1846). The chart of New Haven harbor is ready for printing. A sheet embracing the eastern entrance to Long Island sound, and one extending from Port Penn, on the Delaware, to the head of navigation, are nearly ready. The charts of New London and Syosset (Oyster bay) harbors are nearly engraved. Considerable progress has been made in engraving the charts of Holmes's Hole and Tarpaulin cove, both harbors of refuge, and the large sheet of the entrance to Delaware bay. An off-shore chart, from Point Judith to Cape Henlopen, has been commenced.

"Drawings of a chart of the Patapsco, in two sheets, and of the coast on the south side of Long Island, and several harbor charts, are nearly finished."

With respect to the publication of results, it is found that the present progress of the work admits of the publication of five or six sheets every year,—two to three of general coast maps, and three to four of harbor maps. The number of plates published, was, at the date of the last report, twelve, and that number was to be increased to seventeen during the present year; and proper means are taken for a distribution of the maps equal to the demand for them. The highest praise is due to the admirable execution of the Charts, for the distinct and beautiful minuteness of detail, and for the excellence of the engraving in all respects. They may be advantageously compared with the Maps of the British Ordnance Survey, and even with the highly finished maps of the French Survey.

The Superintendent's Annual Report presents a detailed account of the progress of the Survey in the several "Sections," with particular references to the labors of the "Assistants" and other officers employed on the work, the different operations being classified under the following heads.

1. The primary triangulations, and astronomical and other observations connected with them.

2. The secondary triangulations, and others connected with them.

3. The hydrography.

4. The topography.

5. The office work, including, first, the calculations of the survey; second, the drawing and reducing of maps and charts; third, the engraving, printing, and publishing of the maps and charts; fourth, the making and repair of instruments.

For particular information the Report itself must be consulted, but the following general account of the successive operations may be added here, as giving to the general reader some idea of the manner in which the Coast Survey is carried on. The order is as follows; first, a reconnaissance, then the primary and secondary triangulations and the measurement of a "base;" the topography and hydrography; the calculation, reduction, engraving, and finally publication of the charts. Of those first in scientific importance is the primary triangulation, connected with which are astronomical, magnetic, and other observations. This is executed by the Superintendent in person or by a principal assistant. The sides of the triangles are very long, sometimes exceeding fifty miles, by which the chances of error in amount and frequency are greatly diminished. The astronomical determinations of longitude and latitude are independent at each station, and yet are connected with the most distant

stations by means of the triangulation. The primary triangulation is followed by the secondary, which fills the large spaces occupied by the former, and also brings down the stations or signal points nearer to the level of the sea and the line of shore, along which they stand at distances of from two to ten miles apart. The topography succeeds to the secondary triangulation. It is the duty of the topographer to represent in minute and faithful detail the surface of ground comprehended within the scope of the survey,—omitting no object that can be indicated on a chart. In the hydrographical work, it is the duty of the hydrographer to describe the bottom of the sea with equal fidelity, together with careful determination of tides and currents, and instructions to navigators. The charts published from the Survey office contain the combined results of all these operations, as they are completed in their systematic services.

The hydrographical part of the Survey during the past year appears to have comprehended a large amount of labor in the observation of tides and currents and soundings, in connexion with some of the most important harbors of the country,—and in Long Island Sound, in the Chesapeake Bay with its course of tributary rivers, and in the Gulf of Mexico. Besides the ordinary effects, the work has been rewarded by the signal results of not only the detection of the new Nantucket Shoal, but also the discovery of a new channel, that has been sounded out in Mississippi Sound; a channel of much importance not only to commerce, but in a military point of view, as giving access at all times to an excellent anchorage for ships of war. The hydrography of the Mississippi section, which gave the result of this discovery, together with an extended series of observations on the very peculiar tides in the Gulf of Mexico, was conducted by Lieut. Commanding Patterson of the U. S. Navy. We are much struck with the following passage in his report to the Superintendent, as illustrative of the importance of the Survey:

"The harbors of Ship Island inlet, and that under the north point of the Chandeleurs, demand our particular attention. Two such harbors of refuge, to say nothing of their importance in other points of view, are scarcely equalled upon the coast. They are perfectly safe from the most dangerous storms in the gulf—those from the eastward and southward—and could be entered with ease, during those storms, *without a pilot*, if accurate charts of the harbors and approaches are furnished, and proper lighthouses placed in proper places. For the want of these many vessels are lost, the annual value of which would cover the expense of the lighthouse establishment in the gulf, and the whole coast survey for a year. To show the security of the Chandeleurs, this little vessel (of 65 tons) rode out, in that anchorage, with perfect ease and comfort, the most severe gales which have been known upon that coast for twenty years. In the same gale the revenue cutter in the harbor of Pensacola cut away her masts to prevent going on shore. Ship Island inlet is still more secure than this."

The off shore hydrography included, besides the operations in the neighborhood of Nantucket, soundings on the coast from the Capes of the Delaware to the Southern Islands of Massachusetts. These off shore soundings were carried out to sea to the depth of near two hundred fathoms, being at an average distance of fifty miles from the coast. Measures were taken for the early publication of the charts which are to contain these results, on account of their especial value to the foreign and coasting trade, in giving full information as to the manner of approaching and running

along that portion of the coast—the numerous ascertained depths being given, and the character of the bottom frequently and minutely described.

The off shore hydrography extended also to "the exploration of the Gulf Stream." This portion of the work is not only interesting in a scientific point of view, but full of promise of results important to the cause of navigation. It derives an additional but melancholy interest from the sacrifice in the fulfilment of his duties of the distinguished young officer, Lieut. Commanding George M. Bache, who was charged with the exploration, and who perished by being swept from the deck of his vessel in the hurricane of the 8th of September, 1846. A more extended notice is due alike to the importance of the exploration of the Gulf Stream, and to the memory of an officer who, after having successfully devoted himself to the service with so much of scientific zeal and ability, died in the discharge of peaceful duty to his country. It is our purpose, therefore, to give a separate paper, in continuance of this article on the Coast Survey, to the character of Lieutenant Bache, in connexion with his services in the exploration of the Gulf Stream.

In concluding this paper, it is only necessary to add as an item of information respecting the Coast Survey, that the appropriation voted for it during the present year by the last Congress, in accordance with the estimates submitted by the Superintendent, was one hundred and forty-six thousand dollars. This being an increased appropriation, in comparison with that of previous years, is one of the gratifying proofs of the confirmed confidence of Congress and the Nation in the conduct of the work, according to the system which Professor Bache, combining, as he does, high scientific ability with remarkable administrative talent, has carried into successful execution. His plan of operations has not only at once extended the Survey along nearly the whole coast, but has shown with considerable accuracy at what annual cost it may be carried on. It has also established that the Survey of the whole coast may be completed within a limited period of time.

We shall be happy to have reason to believe that this paper has contributed to the general knowledge of the importance of the Coast Survey—its progress and prospects. There is, we believe, no appropriation of moneys from the National Treasury, which is devoted to a purpose at once so purely scientific and so eminently practical and beneficial. It is a work not only of enlarged policy, but it is one of the humane functions of civilized government. It is a national work in which a large portion of the people of the United States have a direct interest—an interest that would be measurable, if the value of the vast and varied commerce of a great country could be calculated. If not a direct interest, a remote interest, at least, in the work comes home to every American citizen. No man is living in such deep inland seclusion as not to have some concern in that which increases the facilities and security of commerce, and gives more and more protection against one of the perils of human life.

**MAGNA CHARTA.**—A tablet has been placed during the past week on one of the ruined pillars of the Abbey Church, Bury, in the grounds of Mr. Musket, bearing the following inscription—"Near this spot, on the 20th November, A.D. 1215, Cardinal Langton and the Barons swore at St. Edmund's Altar that they would obtain from King John the ratification of Magna Charta."—*Jerroll's Weekly.*

### Reviews.

*The Principles of Nature, her Divine Revelations, and A Voice to Mankind.* By and through Andrew Jackson Davis, the "Poughkeepsie Seer" and "Clairvoyant." 1 vol. pp. 782. New York: S. S. Lyon, and Wm. Fishbough.

COLERIDGE preserves the anecdote of an ignorant Dutch chambermaid, who, when suffering from delirium, raved in excellent Hebrew to the religious wonderment of all the simple neighbors. They thought the woman seized with "the gift of tongues," until some scientific visitor explained the miracle by tracing her former domestication with a worthy clergyman who used to read Hebrew aloud in his study while his female servant dusted his books of a morning. It was then agreed by the wiser ones that the mechanical impressions daguerreotyped upon the girl's senses in former years were simply reproduced by congestion of the brain (just as the flame brings out letters traced with lemon juice on paper, thus hinting at the properties of a more appalling kind of fire), even as we have attempted to show how such images may recur, when commenting upon Admiral Beaufort's letter in a late number of this journal.\*

The most startling of the phenomena of mesmerism, as now admitted by all intelligent observers to have a real existence, are, to our satisfaction at least, traceable to and explainable by the solution which these anecdotes offer to a most interesting problem. The testimony to the sympathetic influence of one brain upon another, in certain conditions of the system of operator and patient, cannot at this day be set aside; but the testimony as to any new impressions which were not before in the brain of the operator or patient, manifesting themselves from the mind of the latter when in an abnormal condition, stands by no means upon the same indisputable grounds of evidence. The phenomena of the one case, though not yet brought within the acknowledged pale of science, have been known to scientific men for ages. The preternatural claims in the other case, though not less old, have in every instance been set aside when carefully examined by the enlightened physiologist. Nor do we think that clairvoyance has necessarily any connexion with the well accredited phenomena of catalepsy as a natural malady, or as artificially produced by what is called "mesmerism."

The book before us has strongly fortified this conviction of disbelief in the supernatural claims of clairvoyance, while strengthening, in the most whimsical manner, our faith in the solution of the chief wonders of mesmerism as derivable from Coleridge's anecdote.

Accepting the history of the work as given in the preface to be true, viz. that these "revelations" were, in the presence of several witnesses, dictated to "a scribe" by an unlettered man while in a state of mesmeric slumber—we find not one particle of evidence upon any page or sentence of the book to show that the unconscious reproducer of this *omnium gatherum* of crudities held communion with any other world than that of which the Broadway Tabernacle is the centre, and whose confines have been swept, of late years,

\* See Review of the power of the soul over the body. Literary World, No. 30.

† We use the phrase Clairvoyance here in its extreme or Davisite sense; for, in the limited application of the word, we really see no greater miracle in the nervous fluid, when in a highly electrical or magnetized state, passing from the eye through a piece of sheet iron, than we do in the pure electric fluid not passing through a pane of glass which the eye can pierce in its normal state.

by the ample newspaper reports of Lardner's, Lyell's, and Brisbane's lectures in the New York Tribune. Brockden Brown's most singular fragmentary "History of Carsol" shows ten times the novelty and invention displayed in the fanciful historical statistics here given; and old Plato delivered long ago far more forcibly the sentimentality which is here offered as a substitute for religion.

The building up of such a big book is, however, a curious event in literary architecture; and after examining the structure with some curiosity, we feel as if we knew more of other similar edifices—more of the origin of other mystic erections, which have been as famous in their day as this is ever like to be. In proof of this we will venture, off-hand, to write the history of Jacob Boehm, as it has never been set down before, but as its truth will be apparent to every reader of discernment from internal evidence alone.

Jacob Boehm, then, was a Dutch shoemaker, in a direct line of fore-fathership to Coleridge's stolid Hebrew-stammering chambermaid. Unlike his descendant, however, Jacob was of a studious turn, and always sat over his last with Faust's popular journal the Tribuneizung spread before him. In this industrious journal were given daily reports of all the lectures pronounced in the learned city in which he dwelt. Indeed from the scientific discussions which animated its columns, Von Chamberz is said to have derived his whole remarkable theory of "the Natural History of Creation;" while Lord Monboddo, Joe Duggins and Caius Gracchus daily regaled its readers with novelties in physical science, moral discoveries, and the art of Squaring the political Circle.

From the age of fifteen to twenty-one Jacob Boehm daily pursued his researches in this Cyclopaedia of knowledge, until his last wax-end of progressive improvement was fairly drawn through the soul upon which he was working. But there lay his hoards of learning, an inert congeries in his brain, a great, dyspeptic, indigestible mass of crudities, and contradictions—a blind accumulation of newspaper common-sewerage.

Now it chanced that in those days Van Helmont heard of the boy Boehm. Van Helmont, the great martyr to the science of animal magnetism, whose fame has been so unfairly usurped by Mesmer; Van Helmont, who, fired by mystic hints among the Egyptian references of Herodotus,\* reproduced to wondering Europe the buried science of Neurology; Van Helmont, whose books had just been burned for the first time by the Inquisition, heard, mesmerically, of the excellent and studious Boehm, and determined to submit him to his experiments if possible; and Boehm was duly magnetized by the modern originator and great master of the art. Van Helmont tried his sheer physical experiments upon him; those experiments, by whose success he attempted to prove the preposterous claims to supernaturalism, advanced in behalf of miracles performed in the convents; published another book at the peril of his life; and was again silenced by the Inquisition.

Not so, Jacob, however. The fire of the magnetic passes had acted upon the Dutch Memnon as did Egyptian sunshine upon the old negro head of Thebes; and now, after its legitimate reveille had been played, it continued to give out a medley of sound in which each contributor to the Tribuneizung might have

\* It is a poetic Greek fragment, by the way, which Herodotus quotes apropos to the art of curing maladies in Egypt by stroking with the hand.

recognised some strain of his own. The thawing out of Baron Munchausen's horn was nothing to it.

Then did each "progress" savan—each steam-scourer of scientific "old clo" rush to Jacob to behold their own thoughts similarly daguerreotyped in turn upon his brain; and inasmuch as each assistant was at hand to explain the blurred portrait of his own individual theory as reproduced by Jacob, it is remarkable how many he packed into his collection without their seriously jostling each other; for elbowing all their modern brethren, there was no Voltaire, and Rousseau, and Fourier, and Tom Paine; Plato nudging Kant, and even William Penn pushed forward from behind by the Emperor Antoninus (from whose book, *τὰ καρακόρην*, many of the others stole whatever of religious sentiment they can be accused of); there they were, all of them delighted at first to revisit the glimpses of the moon; but each raising an outcry at the theft of his "thunder," when the shoemaker's work was pronounced by the stultified crowd, "a new thing under the sun."

If such be not the actual history of the Davisite Revelation produced in Germany several centuries ago, yet similar to this we believe to be the true explanation of the Jacob Boehm revelation produced in New York within the last few weeks; and like both of them was the work of that ancient "progress" projector whom Plato touched up in an Athenian newspaper in the following paragraph, afterwards embodied among his permanent writings. "He has proved thereby that he is equally ignorant of the nature of inspiration and delirium, right and wrong, good and evil. Now, this ignorance is a reproach, though the entire mass of the vulgar should unite in its praise."\*

Let us not be understood, however, as regarding the book as an imposition, or as intentionally aimed to work a wrong to society. In reading some parts of it, indeed, we have felt disposed to regard the whole as a heap of infidel offal, rejected from the critical *abattoir* of all modern times, and animated by the wires of charlatanism, when it had reached the ultimate state of putridity. But upon examining it more thoroughly we are confirmed in the impression already intimated, that the getters up of the publication have been gulled by themselves. We should take them to be men of clever heads and cold minds; such men will often receive back their own trite thoughts with stupid admiration when they are returned to them clothed in the glowing fancy of the poet or the unhealthy eloquence of the inebriate. Such men, after pouring their daily theories into a cataleptic crucible, are the readiest to exclaim, "lo! a god!" when the fused mass rushes molten back upon them from a delirious brain. Such men, denying the supernaturalism of the Bible, are ever ready to recognise their own notions as preternatural when they stumble upon them embodied in a new shape. "Sure, and I did see a spirit," quoth Paddy to his priest.

"Faix, and what did it look like?" asked Father O'Reilly.

"It looked for all the world like a donkey."

"Then Pat, honey, you have only seen your own shadow," said the good father.

The fact that many parts of this book are eloquently written and evidently by a practised pen, does not at all affect this view of its contents; any more than the fact that some of the

contents themselves are of a wholesome character. As in the wedding-feast kettles of Camacho the rich, in Don Quixote, an illiterate Sancho might secure a fat duck or so from the mere skimmings; but the edible morsels float in awkward contiguity to Sam Weller's canine "sassingers," and "here a finger, there a toe" from the weird sister's caldron, thicken the broth a little too grossly. Still, as the whole is savored from the castors of progress piety, and ladled out by the genius of universal philanthropy, one would not quarrel with the mess, if it really had any novelty to recommend it.

When that extraordinary fossil repast of stew and soups, extracted by steam pressure from antediluvian bones, was given to Cuvier by the Savans of Paris, the wise cook infused some new spices amid the gelatine from which he made his ingenious dishes; but here, despite Bacon's axiom that religion is the aromatic which prevents science from becoming corrupt, we have a mere boiling up of old bones into a *consommé* of absurdity, with not even a new kind of infidel garlic to flavor it.

Rivalling thus an old almanac in its good things, and the plot of one of Mr. James's novels in its new things, one cannot but think of the capabilities of its materials when looking at this raw Alleghanic publication in a merely literary point of view, and conceive with what seeming truth and unfailing consistency De Foe would have done up this sort of scientific novel, had the means and appliances been at his disposal as they are now at those of every newspaper reader. How terribly, too, would our own Brockden Brown have thrown these "Revelations" into form, had the wonders of geology and other physical science been accessible, as now, to his fertile mind! Yet this, intrinsically a feebler book than any of Brown's supernatural novels, is ten times as well received by his countrymen as were any of Brown's writings! Such we are persuaded will be the case with pernicious works of the kind for some time to come. For the general undervaluing of imagination, which is a part of American education, necessarily reacts in the growth of a fanciful and diseased rationalism, and our matter-of-fact training produces a saturnalia of common-sense, just as the parallelogram streets of Philadelphia breed a riotous disposition. Fiction is the natural vegetable diet of the young or untutored mind (as HE well knew who mixed the strong meat of doctrine with entertaining parables), and no intelligent youth who has enjoyed a fair share of legitimate novel reading at the period of life when the mind craves such aliment, could in his maturer years attach half the weight to the cosmogony of this delirious concoction that he once did to the mundane theories traceable in the Arabian Nights' Entertainments.

But we must give at least one extract from the precious volume before us, to show its quality. We select the account of human society and moral science in the planet Jupiter; because, as the *Revelator* asserts:

"By abstract dissertations upon these, the mind may be led to conceive of important truths by analogy; and the application of these truths will be of incalculable value in promoting the happiness and peace of the inhabitants of the earth. And that such application will be made, is by no means improbable. And when these things are impressed upon the internal principle of man, man will become generally enlightened; and an extensive knowledge of things existing, will unite his affections to Truth. And in proportion to the extent of

intelligence, will benevolence and happiness prevail."

Let the reader now forget, if he can, the description of Planetary population in Mr. Locke's famous Moon hoax, and take in soberly the following narration:—

"Concerning the HUMAN INHABITANTS of Jupiter, much might be said that would be of interest; for their relation to *our conceptions* of a perfect being is much closer than the inhabitants of Saturn. Their form is full, and well sustained by inward and physical forces. Their size, symmetry, and beauty of form, exceed those of the earth's inhabitants. Their mental organization corresponds to their physical developments. Smoothness and evenness are apparent upon their form generally.

"They do not walk erect, but assume an inclined position, frequently using their hands and arms in walking, the lower extremities being rather shorter than the arms according to our standard of proportion. And by a modest desire to be seen only in an inclined position, they have formed this habit, which has become an established custom among them.

"Their general characteristics are of a mechanical and intellectual nature, accompanied by strong affections and interior love for each other. They have great moral development; are submissive, and yet firm and decided in all their intentions and dealings with each other. Their intelligence greatly excels that of Earth's inhabitants. They are existing in a state intermediate between the first and second spheres, in knowledge and refinement.

"Their form of countenance displays the qualities and workings of their inward principle. There is a peculiar prominence of the upper lip, this consisting of a complex and interwoven mass of fibres, the action of which gives great expression to inward thoughts and feelings; which expression among them constitutes the peculiar mode of conversation. Therefore they cannot think one thing and speak another; for their expression would betray their inward sentiments.

"There is a great deal of gentleness and amiability manifested through their exteriors; and inasmuch as the external form corresponds to the inward principle, all their external communications with each other are inflowings of interior affection. And as they are highly susceptible to universal love, they are incessantly expressing this by the congenial radiations of their expressive countenances.

"They reason inductively. They associate with the internal of all things, as being the only reality in the Universe. Their associations with each other are according to the inward affinity of spheres,—and thus are they governed in all their conjugal and national relations. For by an influx of inward desire from one to another, which is perfectly spiritual, they become attached: and thus conjoined, they exist in perfect unity, by virtue of their perfect interior virtues.

"Knowing these indestructible truths, and knowing all things which are unchanging, they submit unresistingly to be controlled exclusively thereby. Hence they observe great care in producing, and in preserving the health of, their offspring. Health being thus indelibly stamped upon their constitutions while young, strengthens in their growth, and they become enlightened in the perfect knowledge of these principles. Therefore, disease is not known among them; and being free from this imperfection enables them to generate excessively fast.

"Their constitutions being composed of light and changing particles, they soon change their form of existence. They do not die, but rather sink into repose by an expansion of their interiors, which seek more agreeable spheres. And regarding this as a mere metamorphosis, they escape with transports of delight; and they are hence pleased with the evanescent existence of the body.

\* οὐδὲ εφενεῖ τὴν ἀληθείαν, μὴ οὐδὲ επονειδίστων τοι, οὐδὲ διὸ οὐ τας δύχεις αὔτοι σταύρων.—Plat. Phœdr.

"Moreover the inhabitants of this planet look upon the changes and vicissitudes of their physical being, as natural and inevitable consequences of existing causes. These vicissitudes are but few; but in proportion to the refinement of particles composing their body, is the brevity of their existence. For that which is fine and delicate exists but a little while in any form; but that which is heavy and imperfect, continues in the form longer in consequence of being less active and less susceptible to foreign action. And as the inhabitants of Jupiter are composed of finer elements than those composing the inhabitants of the earth, they remain in the form but a short period, by reason of its active and changeable composition. Thirty years is the average duration of their form's existence."

"Having an expansive and sweeping intellect, they comprehend the laws and relations of their being with one concentrated thought. And meditation in them is thrown out upon their countenances with a sweet expression, which would, if it could be seen by an inhabitant of the earth, bring forth an ejection of tears and a gush of feeling that could not be expressed. Their mode of conversation is thus distinctly and unequivocally expressive; for it is a mode of expressing the impressions existing upon their interiors. And these beam forth with such perfect brightness and affection, that they are responded to by the interior affections of every other being. It being absolutely impossible for them to think one thing and speak another; to have a greater amount of self-love than universal affection; to think impurely or conceive unrighteous thoughts; and being thus free from all the imperfections of this and other earths, their exteriors are open to the reception of light and truth, which correspond to the fire of spiritual purification."

"They inhabit well-constructed edifices, whose form corresponds to that of a *tent*, rather than a *house*, on Earth. These are lined with a bluish bark, taken from a tree of the second class; and they are thus rendered impervious to cold, water, and light. They receive one twenty-fifth of the light of the Sun that the Earth enjoys. But this, striking vertically at the equator, at which place is located their extensive habitations, gives them the enjoyment of as much light as could be possibly obtained from the centre of our Solar System."

"They are divided into families, associations, and nations. Their families are composed of such individuals as have a desire for the company of each other from a congeniality of interior affection. Families grow into associations, and these into nations; and the whole forms one perfect, harmonious, *spiritual brotherhood*!"

"The cause of this state of things is the *intelligence* which exists among them; and this, transcending the erudition of the inhabitants of Earth to an infinite extent, enables them to comprehend the uses of all things, and their original adaptations. Therefore they make proper applications of these uses; the result of which is their glorious purification. And as they are surrounded by various vegetables, birds, and animals, they are also capable of making a proper application of these, to promote their greatest happiness and peace."

"They reason so perfectly by induction and from correspondences, that whatsoever may be the specific quality of their affections and delights, these are all ultimately centred in the proper comprehension of all that is connected with their state of mental association. And all affections that are breathed forth from their interiors are so charmingly typified upon their exteriors, and even the representation itself is such an emblem of love and purity, that an unspeakable appreciation of their mutual interior affections is reciprocally established in their minds!"

"Thus is the physical and mental, or natural and spiritual man, made perfect. And by conceiving of the indestructible relation which exists between purity and truth, the minds of the

inhabitants of the *Earth* will be led to recognise *their* institutions, and to spurn with the utmost abhorrence all things that are opposed to righteousness. Thus efforts will be made to bring about a better state of things; and this will be the unfolding of interior truths and principles that are at this moment considered as imaginary and chimerical. And by properly conceiving of the celestial peace and purity that flow spontaneously from interior truths, the minds of the Earth will become relieved from their external bonds of corruption, into the inexpressible light and liberty of celestial love and peace!"

"Concerning Jupiter's *spiritual* inhabitants, I will hereafter speak, when the knowledge is given me by spiritual influx from the *sixth Sphere*. But, for the present, I leave this planet, which is abounding with all that attaches the affections and feelings of man, as the objects of his deepest yearnings, while aspiring to higher states of purity and peace. And man's desires for celestial magnificence, are the spontaneous breathings of his interior principle. And his aspirations and anticipations cannot be too exalted; for he may rest assured from the evidences now presented, that his anticipations are scarcely as a *single thought* in comparison to the destined future expansion of his interiors, and to the celestial light, peace, and magnificence, that await not only the spiritual composition of mankind, but every particle existing in infinite space!"

There—if the reader would know more about "the important truths" to be studied by "analogy" and the application of these Jovian teachings to our terraqueous condition, we would refer him to an article entitled "Love and Jupiter," got up on the same mesmeric plan, in one of the back numbers of Godey's Magazine.

*The Months*, by W. C. Hosmer. Boston: W. D. Ticknor & Co.

*The Poetical Works of William Alexander, A.M., including his Christian Dramas and Minor Poems, with Dissertations on Poetry, and a Sketch of his Life*. Philadelphia: J. B. Lippincott & Co.

DE TOCQUEVILLE, in one of the chapters of his work on America, thus characterizes the literature of a democratic state: "There will be more wit than erudition, more imagination than profundity; and literary performances will bear marks of an untutored and rude vigor of thought—frequently of great variety and singular fecundity. The object of authors will be to astonish rather than to please, and to stir the passions more than to charm the taste."

This view of the condition of literature taken by the distinguished French critic upon Society, has often suggested a text to our periodical essayists, or been used by American writers, when enforcing a favorite theme, in deplored the deficiency in American letters, of the very attributes which the Philosophic Frenchman insists upon as indispensable requisites to nationality, in the literature of our "fierce democracie."

It is remarkable that so much ingenuity has been expended in accounting for the alleged poverty of American writers in the qualities thus demanded of them, and that no one thinks of disputing the dogma upon which the requisition is founded!

We deny it *in toto*, and hope in a very few words to bring our readers over to our opinion.

The literature of a country, to be a living literature, must minister to the *needs* of that country. And the original purpose of one form of literature, one character of writing, as

distinguished from other forms and characters of literary production, is to supply some special *want*. Now as it happens in this country, we need "erudition" more than we do "wit"; we need "taste" more than we do "energy"; we need elegance of sentiment more than we do ought to "stir men's passions";—in a word, it is the *ameliorating*, and not the *stimulating* influences of letters which are most required by our condition! It is the winning lyre of Amphion, not the clarion peal of Pindar, which is needed in our over-energetic state of Society—where everything combines to excite the mind to outward action, and where there is so little to encourage it to inward meditation.

Poetry especially has no mission among us to rouse the torpid soul from lethargy, or to crumble the crust of slavish conventionalism by recalling the freedom and heroism of the heroic ages. When the whim seizes us, we do up that sort of thing in our own persons by changing a fashionable dress coat for a hunting-shirt, and striding across the Rocky Mountains; or blow it off in a Presidential election; or upset a State Constitution and make another; or instead of putting it on ink and paper, we write it out across the prairies in iron rails of a thousand miles in length or so.—No, the province of Poetry here is clearly to tempermental excitement already existing, with the more genial graces of sentiment; to mellow and refine a hard self-seeking intellectuality; which believing itself ever in quest of "Utility," is inevitably tending towards the most grovelling materialism. The mission of Poetry in America is to accompany the March of Mind, not as a bugler sounding the charge of its thronged legions, but as an humble musician who, dragged along in the procession (as Charles Lamb has it), occasionally plays some home-strain at the evening bivouac, which shall keep alive the memory of some civil graces in the great moving camp. In short, the American muse is not called upon to indite either an *Iliad* or the "Song of a Shirt." The whole country is engaged in acting an *Epic*, and a very original one too; and the poor woman who got only a dinner for making up linen last week, to-day gets a dollar a page by writing tales for a new magazine just started "for the Million."

In the teeth, then, of all that is said about "nationality" by one class of critics and about "utility" by another, our Alleghanian muse, if she were only a little more of a virago than she is, might make good the assertion that while she ministers to taste and feeling, to elegance of sentiment and refinement of expression, she feeds a want, she supplies a need, and is engaged like an honest woman, and a patriotic woman, and a philanthropic woman, in the true mission of American Musehood.

With this conviction fresh upon us, the reader will see that we are in the best possible state of recipiency for the good things in the books before us; the one the production of a gentleman already favorably enrolled upon the register of poets, the other a literary experiment by a fresh candidate for the degree *Apolloniate*.

We are glad to find Mr. Hosmer's poems in such good hands as those of Ticknor—the prince of poetic publishers, whose generous margins make each type show as distinctly as a bombazine-clad bather on Rockaway Beach. There is a freshness and freedom of spirit in Mr. Hosmer's verses that makes them all-worthy of their fair typographical embodiment; whether he tells us that in *January*—

"Pale forms along the mountain side—  
Mad cavalry of Winter!—ride  
Through whirling clouds of snow."

Or sings of some *February* field—

"Where, girl by groves, a clearing spread,  
The stubble, like a darkening beard  
On the pale visage of the dead,  
Above the level snow appeared."

Or pictures the scene in *March*, when—

"From many a sugar camp upcurls  
Blue smoke above the maple boughs,  
And shouting boys and laughing girls  
Wild Echo from her covert rouse."

Or with classic feeling relates how—

"By April of the sunny tress  
The mighty spell of death is broke,  
As marble, with a fond caress,  
To life the son of Belus woke."

Or stirs memory's withered leaves in an after spring, by touching with tenderness the inspiriting associations of *May*—

"Bright drops on floral cup and bell,  
When breaks the first fair morn of May,  
No longer, blest by fairy spell,  
Can charm the freckled mole away;  
But ah! this season of delight  
Hath magic yet to make more bright  
The tombstone of the Past;  
And Memory 'a-Maying' goes,  
Reviving many a withered rose,  
In gardens dim and vast."

But we are running on with a sentence so long that the two ends of it will never meet, and we must even now cut it short in the middle. These are charming bits, and equally graceful and life-like is the following Rhyme of *June* (by the by, the real poetic May of our latitudes)—

"Where spreads the meadow, broad and long,  
Its velvet to the river's brink,  
There is a rivalry in song  
Between the lark and bobolink.  
While sunny skies drop golden rain,  
The former pours a file-like strain  
From her expanding throat—  
The latter, on some grassy spire,  
Rocks to and fro—a feathered lyre  
Of full, voluptuous note."

But softly—"the lark!"—what lark? surely the poet does not mean to place our American mead-lark's wailing whistle—a beautiful, but still monotonous note, side by side with the bob-o-linkum's gushing song? even the catbird (mamatwa, the musical Algonquins call him), that much slandered but delicious songster of our northern groves and gardens, is not to be named with the favorite warbler, immortalized by bearing the name of Linkum Fidelius! Shakspeare, to be sure, makes a great ado about the English lark, a totally different bird from ours—but Shakspeare never heard a bob-o-linkum save in his dreams of an American June in Fairy Land.

"*July*" puts one of Mount's best pictures into sweet verse, and offers several others of the poet's own, in keeping with it. "*August*" is equally good. The opening line, however, ought to be changed in a future edition, Mr. Gallagher, the Cincinnati poet's admired lines on *August*, opening nearly identically in the same way.

"Dust on thy mantle, dust."—*Gallagher*.  
"Dust on the robe of August clings."—*Hosmer*.

And another poet's exquisitely concentrated picture of a brook in midsummer—

"The pebbles are dry on the upper side,  
And dark and wet below."—*Mrs. Oakes Smith*.

is not improved by being expanded into the following:

"The low channel of the brook  
Is paved with pebbles dry,  
Kissed by the purling wave no more,  
They catch a gleam of silver ore,  
But dull and darkened lie."—*Hosmer*.

It may be useless to mention that we do not

point out these similarities of thought so common among the best writers, as being plagiarisms. Mr. Hosmer evidently observes nature for himself, nor is the chastity of his muse impeachable in this way. Our readers now will not quarrel with us for quoting several stanzas from the next poem as apposite to the present month.

"Month of heart—September mild!  
Thy transient reign is passing bright;  
The vine-hung temple of the wild  
Is streaked with golden light:  
Insects are singing in the grass,  
And, as with loitering step I pass,  
Shy pigeons greet my view,  
Robbing the fragrant sassafras  
Of berries darkly blue.

"Nigh moulderling logs, with moss o'erspread,  
Gleam the striped Arum's coral beads,  
And brake-stems, shaken by my tread,  
Drop their round, clustering seeds:

"On few children of the shade  
That pale, fantastic painter—Frost—  
Warm colors with cold hand hath laid,  
Though not a leaf is lost:  
Blood-drops may, here and there, be seen  
On the low Sunnach's vest of green,  
As if its heart had bled,  
And, where tall maples form a screen,  
The grove is growing red.

"You mower, while the buckwheat falls  
In reddish swaths, his task to cheer,  
Some rude old ballad strain recalls  
That well I love to hear:  
The squirrel, frightened by his song,  
A neighboring cornfield's edge along  
Races in wild dismay,  
And startled crows, a noisy throng,  
Fly through the woods away.

"Old pastures, seamed by paths of sheep,  
Fresh from the baths of gentle showers,  
Are rivaling the verdure deep  
Of May's enchanted hours:—  
The mushroom lifts its roof of snow,  
With rosate hangings draped below,  
Tent meet for fairy folk!  
And while his boughs wave to and fro,  
Fall acorns from the oak.

"Huge wains, piled high with yellow maize,  
Groan as their wheels cut through the soil,  
And the blithe hunter homeward strays,  
Bearing his feathered spoil;  
With mist the distant hills are crowned,  
And winds, in passing, waft a sound,  
Pleasant to Boyhood's ear,  
Of ripe fruit falling to the ground  
In orchards planted near."

There is fine poetic feeling animating these stanzas, and we could take pleasure in culling still further from Mr. Hosmer's volume, but it is time to turn to the second work, whose title is at the head of this article.

"What, the life and writings of the countryman of William of Hawthornden, the accomplished William Alexander, first Earl of Sterling! Who under the sun at this late day can have collected his fragmentary remains? Has the New Jersey Historical Society been busy again among the papers of the last earl?"

Such was our natural mental exclamation upon reading the formal title of this hot-pressed octavo. A spirited mezzotint portrait by Welch, from a daguerreotype by Simmons, showing the author to be a fine looking fellow, soon dispelled the misapprehension by its modern costume, while introducing us most favorably to William Alexander, A.M. of the University of Pennsylvania; an estimable gentleman who seems to have been moved to make this publication by "a heartfelt desire that as his country is rapidly advancing in political glory, she may with equal rapidity advance in literary glory."

Mr. Alexander has, therefore, turned author; not in the underhand frivolous way of throwing some anonymous publication upon the current, and waiting till the public mind is all astir to know "who let that book loose," but coming manfully before the world with a short sketch of his own life and literary character

prefixed to his writings by his own hand. The tenor of this literary autobiography is of a character to stimulate a curious interest in the productions which it fitly heralds. We note with special interest the fact that "the writer has had the privilege of being under the care of some of the most accomplished and learned instructors," as giving value to the subsequent *memorabilia* that "he was not defrauded, however, of his share of the rod, that awful sceptre of school dominion," and that "to every species of poetry attention has been paid by the writer—and with what success this volume will show." These pregnant passages are not unsuitable harbingers to the fifty pages of "Dissertations on Poetry," and a variety of other themes, which form the second division of the book. These are characterized by an orthodox goodness of feeling and scholar-like sustainment of the most approved language, which shows how our author disdains to borrow any adventitious inspiration from the subjects with which he deals; the only striking exception to this rule being the following bold and imaginative conjuring up of the "genius of temperance," with which the glowing writer rushes into one of his essays.

"I see a stranger form before me, young and beautiful, in whose hand is a parchment scroll; the pledge of temperance!"

There is a violence and an abruptness in the introduction of this novel picture at the very commencement of an essay, which even its originality does not make wholly pardonable in a mature devotee of letters like our author. The following passage, too, in the last paragraph of the same dissertation, will be thought by some to savor too strongly of the extravagance of the romantic school.

"Let us hail then, not only by our words, but by our actions, the speedy approach of the temperance millennium." A milder term, like "let us welcome," strikes us as more in consonance with the tempered enthusiasm of the rest of this passage.

A similar *abandon* of emotion is again apparent, when our author at last fairly seizes the lyre of Timotheus in the third division of his book, and launches into the Christiad, an epic poem of two thousand lines. Here, however, a more glowing diction and greater boldness of thought are not only pardonable, but worthy of all admiration. And when our author tells us that—

"—invoked  
Calliope thus sorrowfully sings  
Of God's redeemed —."

we are struck at once with the harmonious congruity of poetic feeling, which lifts the mythology of the heathen Greek from its trite and pedantic associations into the life-reviving and healthy atmosphere of evangelical inspiration. Our author is well aware of the spiritual unity which pervades the poetic forms of all time, and his skill in using this property with the happiest effect is equally well shown in the Hebrew drama, which forms the succeeding division of his book. Here, in act v., scene 4, he introduces most strikingly, the maidens of Palestine around a funeral pile, singing a verse of Mrs. Hemans's song, "Bring flowers, pale flowers, o'er the bier to shed." He certainly could have put no sweeter song in the mouths of those girls, nor one more appropriate to sing on such an occasion; nor do we think he has taken half such a liberty with it as the Tettotalers have perpetrated upon "Sparkling and bright," by turning it into a temperance song. In one of the shorter poems, however, the appropriation of the words of an-

other seems to require some apology to explain the apparent, but we doubt not inadvertent, plagiarism.

"Columbia, Hail! thy sons a noble band."

Here the resemblance to the opening couplet of a well known poem written by Judge Hopkinson, of Philadelphia, cannot but strike every person of general reading—

"Hail, Columbia [happy land,  
Hail, ye heroes, heaven-born] band."

are the identical words of Judge Hopkinson's song; and we would deferentially submit that the phrase "heaven-born," though placed by our brackets outside of the parallel, are still so nearly identical in meaning with the term "noble," used by our author, that the identity of thought as well as expression seems alike proven. Our author, in a subsequent poem of the collection, says far more originally—

"Sweet Spirit of the Press, we bid thee hail!"

The expletive "sweet" here, applied to the fierce spirit of Journalism, is evidently intended to modify the injunction at the close of the line ordering the press to "hail." Shakspeare says—

"Roar me as gently as a sucking dove."

And why may not other poets bid our bitter political paragraphists to "hail sweetly?"

But we are trifling too long with the good nature both of our author and of our readers. The former, for aught we know, may be a future Byron, whose "Hours of Idleness" we are now reviewing; and although he has not yet struck the true vein, there may still be a rich mine of poetry in his nature. His aspirations are all excellent, but his scholastic education has seemingly acted only as yet like veneering, in covering up the natural grain of the faculties, which it should have developed while polishing.

We are rather inclined to think, however, that Mr. Alexander has altogether mistaken his vocation. A scholarly appreciation of what is beautiful in literature, with earnest religious feelings, is not alone enough to make a poet. The leading poem of his volume has some passable lines in it, but the following stanza from "the Ruins of Balbec," is altogether the best brick that a disciple of Hierocles could select from the thirty-three different structures by which our author has attempted to build the lofty rhyme:—

"Behold! wild vines, and weeds, and ivy green,  
Wreath the rich pillars, desolate and old,  
Though still magnificent as they had been  
Before their temples' fall. And stern and bold  
They yet their Maker's power unfold;  
While others' capitals on all sides round,  
Lie thick as bones of men on other roll'd  
Upon some mighty warrior's battle-ground,  
Where heroes fell to sleep till the last trump shall sound."

*Solitude Sweetened; or, Miscellaneous Meditations, &c., &c.* By James Meikle. New York: Robert Carter.

A WORK of this character scarcely comes under the province of a Reviewer, being not an exposition of thought nor a collection of facts, but simply the evolving of personal impressions, not from outward suggestions, but internal states of mind. Things of this sort are of incalculable individual importance, as fixing the otherwise fleeting impression into a high and protective habitude; but unless emanating from a mind of more than ordinary freshness and originality, have little of value to the public at large. Fortunately the closet of the devoutly disposed is not deficient in works of this character bearing that unquestionable stamp of Genius, which converts what

otherwise might have been personal only, into an universal import. Thomas à Kempis, Baxter, Taylor, Doddridge, Scougal, and others, might be cited as meeting nearly every spiritual phase, and as having that compact artistic form which is the result not of elaborate design, but of genuine character in their authors.

The work before us seems to have been written by a surgeon in the British Navy, and we have the dates and locality where each of the Meditations was peuned; a form entirely superfluous it would appear, as there is nothing in the thought suggested by the locality, and, therefore objectionable, as giving the book the aspect of a pious claptrap. Of the sincere religious aspirations of the author, not a doubt can exist in the mind of the reader; but in going over page after page of right and good thought, unrelieved by one of a single shade of originality, we were forcibly reminded of the pithy remark of the excellent Channing, when his opinion was asked as to the merit of certain poems, "Poor, but pious;" one of the neatest bits of pithy alliteration ever uttered.

The truth is, that the religious community, in their eagerness to preserve all records of the spiritual experiences of the seriously inclined, overrate the character of such productions; are misled by the odor of sanctity which they give forth, and do in fact injure the high and holy cause which they wish to serve, by pouring from the press the elaborate and vapid emanations of pure but contracted minds. Then, too, it should be borne in mind that a diary is the most sacred thing in the world—the candor of a soul divested of impediment, and unveiled in the presence of spiritual essences; consequently an Editor should feel the utmost delicacy in thrusting out to the world that which should fill with awe even those most privileged by affection.

We have before said this work is hardly a subject for a review. We extract the following as a happy specimen of the author's style:—

#### "SAINTS HONORABLE."

"Under sail, May 1, 1759.

"Among the failings with which the saints are chargeable, surely this is one: Too mean apprehensions of their own greatness though in their greatness the love of God is exalted. The poor man who has many troubles every day to combat with, and is subjected perhaps to daily indigence, would think it presumption in him to believe that there were orders given in the court of heaven concerning him by name, that necessary supply should be sure to him; and that no less than angels, who attend the throne, were commissioned to secure his safety! But since God's eternal Son descended to come to minister to the sons of men, 'and give his life a ransom for many,' it well becomes the brightest of the angelic hosts to minister unto the heirs of salvation.

"Truly, O saint! a serious consideration of thine high estate (for 'since thou wast precious in his sight, thou hast been honorable'), ought not to puff up thy mind with pride, but to fill thine heart with holy admiration and wonder, and to swell thy soul with ecstasy and love! The men of the world may scorn thy mean cottage, but had they one glance of the angelic guards that do duty there, they would conclude it to be the palace of a king, or the gate of heaven. Elisha's servant was of the same mind with the world; he thought his master was a helpless, though a holy man: 'Alas my master, how shall we do? we are undone, for we have no power to withstand the Syrian army.' But, anon, he sees the mountain shining around them with celestial guards, and covered with the flaming chariots of the King of glory. Now, O saint!

Elisha's God is thy God, and the standing forces of eternity are still the same, being truly the immortal legion; yes, their employment is also the same, till all the saints are brought to glory.

"When on a journey thou puttest up at an inn, thou mayst be obliged to take the worst room, while others, who have a grand retinue, and numerous attendants, have the best lodgings; but what thinkest thou of this, that not only angels should be thy guards, but the Lord God of gods, the Lord God of Gods! should himself be thy watchman? How secure, then, seeing thine omnipotent Guardian neither slumbers nor sleeps! If, under thy earthly sovereign, thou art called to the martial plain, thou mayest pitch thy tent in the open field, while the general of the army fixeth his splendid pavilion in the centre, yet only men encamp around him; but wherever thou pitchest, 'the angel of the Lord encampeth round about thee.' What, then, should thy conduct be, O thou that art highly favored of the Lord! Thou shouldst study holiness in the highest degree, in gratitude to him who deals so with thee; and humility, that thou mayst never forget thyself, and so cease to wonder at the heavenly condescension! Is it thy part, O saint! when so honored, so defended by the King, to hold disloyal conferences with his implacable enemies, self, sin, Satan, against whom the 'Lord hath sworn that he will have war for ever?' When he, in redeeming grace, has raised thee up to heaven, wilt thou through sin debase thyself to hell? Now, O saint, thou art no less happy, and thy condition no less grand than this. Live, then, above the world and its vanities, with a greatness of soul that evidences thy divine descent, till the day come, in which thou shalt be exalted to that glory, of which thou art now an expectant, candidate, and heir."

#### Foreign Correspondence.

##### WHAT CAN BE DONE IN TEN WEEKS.

*Brief daily notes of a business man, on the way to and from Naples, with his wife, in 1847.*

##### NO. VI.—ROME.

*Palaces and Pictures—Etruscan Museum—Ancient Baths—Palm Sunday—The Capitol—Music.*

March 26th, 33d day—6th in Rome.—Brevity the soul of wit. The names alone must do for remembrances. To-day we "did" a few of the palaces and galleries. First, the BORGHESE PALACE; Borghesi family one of the most famous in Rome, and has given it a Pope or two; palace very large and imposing—gallery extensive, and choice; arranged on a ground floor suite of rooms—many gems, particularly the Cumæan Sybil, Titian's "Sacred and Profane Love"; Raphael's Entombment; Domenichino's Chace of Diana; Andrea del Sarto's Holy Family, and others too tedious to mention. It's singular how those great artists would run upon the same subject—there are about 20 "Holy Families" in the one private collection. Here, as in other palaces, printed lists of the pictures in each room and tubes for viewing the pictures are provided for visitors—as if it was a public exhibition instead of a private palace, courteously thrown open to all who choose to come and give a paul or two to the custodæ.—In this gallery saw a splendid table of variegated marble, probably the finest in Rome.

CHIGI PALACE—gallery small and not remarkable.

DORIA PALACE; of immense extent, and the finest front on the Corso; gallery large and very interesting—several beautiful Claudes, and many finely finished Dutch and Flemish pictures—well worth revisiting.

Took time for rest, and reflection on those pictures; then away again to St. Peter's, to Vespers: very fine music in one of the side chapels, and a crowd to hear it; during which the Pope comes in with a long train of ecclesiastics and

officials—one bearing a cushion and movable altar at which the Pope kneeled before each chapel round the church in succession, the cushion being taken up and carried further as soon as His Holiness had said his prayers. When he passed St. Peter's (or Jupiter's) statue, one went before and wiped the toe with a very white handkerchief; the Pontiff then kissed it and put his head *under the foot* of the Statue in reverent humility, and crowds of the unwashed rushed to take the next kiss.

*March 27th, 34th day—7th in Rome.*—To the Vatican: Special permission to see the Etruscan Museum; exceedingly curious; wonderful perfection of the jewelry—rings, bracelets, &c., and household articles found in the Etruscan tombs;—a model of the tombs showing how these articles were placed when found. Immense variety of Etruscan vases—those referred to probably by a brother Yankee who had tumbled down into Rome by some chance, and thought it “a nice place enough, but some things in it were rather out of repair”—as to those “old pots,” he couldn’t see the use of them. Egyptian Museum;—not large, but admirably arranged, the sky-blue ceiling studded with stars; with the granite columns takes you vividly into an unroofed Egyptian temple in the desert. Another walk through the galleries—the Hall of Animals; the long series of inscriptions from ancient tombs and those of the early Christians; the splendid porphyry and granite bathing tubs of the more luxurious Romans; the rich and massive tombs of the Constantine family; and, in short, another look at the Vatican and its contents.

P.M. Rode out to the *TORLONIA VILLA*—a mile beyond the Porta Salaria. The wealthy banker has been expending vast sums upon this place, and gives tickets to see it on Saturdays when it doesn’t rain. Fine grounds and beautiful view from them over the Campagna to the hills of Albano, Tivoli, &c.—but the *imitation* ruins in the grounds are of course *contrived* for effect. The different buildings in the Villa (for that name is applied to the whole establishment) are superbly adorned without regard to expense,—too much finery perhaps—but yet very exquisite in its way. In one of them is a splendid theatre—with ante-rooms adorned with busts and statues, fine marbles, mosaics, frescoes, and all that art can devise or money pay for, to be recherché;—artificial grotto, and various other curious and elegant contrivances in the grounds.

Evening—the Coliseum by moonlight;—a splendid night, my favorite dream fully realized. We made the tour of the corridors with a torch.

“Arches on arches! \* \* \*  
\* \* \* \* “And the moonbeams shine  
As ‘twere its natural torches” \* \* \* to illumine  
This long explored but still exhaustless mine  
Of contemplation; and the azure gloom  
Of an Italian night.” \* \* \*  
Floats o’er this vast and wondrous monument,  
And shadows forth its glory.”

*March 28th, 35th day—8th in Rome.*—PALM SUNDAY.—All the world at St. Peter’s—*ergo*, 5 pauls is cheap for a fiacre. The ladies who had tickets were in black dresses with black veils instead of bonnets; seats provided for about 400 on each side of the grand altar. Of mankind those whose coats are of the “dress” style of tails were admitted into enclosure near the altar: the masses and those who didn’t choose to dress, kept outside, the Swiss and other Guards lining the nave of the church. High mass: a Cardinal takes off the Pope’s hat and puts it on again about 23 times; sundry genuflexions; and then an immense pile of sticks trimmed with light yellow stuff of some kind mis-representing palms, are handed one by one to the Pope to be “blessed” [it takes him two hours, while of those who stand patiently and impatiently in the crowd, *some* seem to think a general blessing of the whole would have been equally efficacious]; then they are distributed to the cardinals and ecclesiastics of all grades, the ambassadors and consuls, &c., &c., and they all form a procession, including the Pope, march down the nave to the grand door, and then march back again, the

people kneeling as his Holiness passes: and other ceremonies, “too tedious to mention.”

P.M. Ride through the Forum again—to the *BATHS OF CARACALLA*, marvellous in extent and magnificence even in their ruins;—a modern bathing house could be taken entire into one of the 20 odd apartments of Caracalla’s baths for the people.—To St. John Lateran again; the effect of the Colossal Statuary by Bernini in the principal nave is very grand, and Dr. W. would have it to be finer than St. Peter’s. History of this splendid church most interesting. Among the relics which there is reason for believing in, is the mouth of the well at which Christ saw the woman of Samaria, and some of the spoils taken at the battle of Actium! The *BAPTISTERY OF CONSTANTINE*, a separate edifice near by, nearly in its original shape, and the tub in which the first Christian emperor bathed; commemorated by Bulwer as used by Rienzi, to the horror of the people who beheld the sacrifice; the *SCALA SANTA*, or Stairs on which Christ ascended to the presence of Pilate,—so popular with pilgrims that the original stairs are encased in wood to preserve them, a little spot only being left open to be kissed, by the hundreds of penitents who are constantly going up and down on their hands and knees. Then passed through the Lateran gate and round the walls outside, to the Borghese Villa and Pincian Hill, from which saw Rome at sunset, and thus finished the 8th day.

*March 29th—36th day—9th in Rome.*—To the *SPADA PALACE*—rather rusty and dilapidated, but contains a famous relic—no less than the *STATUE OF POMPEY* at the base of which Caesar fell! Antiquaries admit its genuineness. Dr. R. pronounced it execrable as a work of art—but there’s something in its port and carriage—warranting Byron’s apostrophe—

“ And thou, dread statue! yet existent in  
The austerest form of naked majesty.”

Here also saw a small collection of pictures. Then to the *FARNSE PALACE*, the architectural chef d’œuvre of Michael Angelo, and the model for the London club-houses—built, like the Barberini and others, of stones from the Coliseum!—now belongs to the King of Naples—celebrated for its fine frescoes by Annibale Carracci, which nearly cost one his neck to study. Another visit to the Pantheon and found the tomb of Annibale Carracci near that of Raphael;—to the *BRASCHI PALACE* to see its staircase, the finest in Rome; to the *CORSINI PALACE*, and enjoyed there a fine collection of pictures. Lunch; and consideration of the foregoing: to carry away a tithe of all these pictures in “one’s eye”—nay a hundredth part—is not very easy.

P.M. To the Museum of the Capitol, my cochér knows nothing of the “Capitoline,” but does know the Campidoglio: another study of the Dying Gladiator,

“ who leans upon his hand—his manly brow  
Consents to death, but conquers agony.”

The famous antique Mosaic of Doves on a vase, so often copied in smaller mosaics; the beautiful Faun in rosso-antico; the “Venus of the Capitol;” a child playing with a mask, &c., &c. The collection is immense, and there are many wonderfully fine works, which give one altogether new ideas of the genius of the ancients. Crossed over to the Hall of the Conservatori and walked through the Hall of Busts of eminent Italians—authors, painters, sculptors, &c., to the present time,—brought here from the Pantheon—some of them by Canova, and very fine; but I looked longer at an ancient Statue of Julius Caesar—said to be the only authentic memorial of that great man handed down from antiquity—mated with another of Augustus; they stand before you so stamped with identity that I almost imagined myself formally introduced to General Julius Caesar and his majesty, the emperor. The same courtyard contains fragments of a colossal Statue, the foot indicating it to have been about 100 feet high. Saw many other curious fragments,—marble tabular records of the successive con-

suls; very curious bas-reliefs; head of King Mithridates of Pontus; bust of Junius Brutus, the first consul, etc. In the upper rooms found a gallery of paintings, including the famous *Sybilla Persica* by Guercino, the Cumæan Sybil by Domenichino, and numerous others of value and interest—are they not chronicled in Murray?—Finished researches on the Campidoglio by a visit to the *CHURCH OF ARACÆLI*, built on the ruins of a temple of Jupiter and connected with a large monastery; church interesting, many of the pillars being antique; saw curious collection of votive offerings and strange little pictures of some Saint’s miracles, hung up before the said Saint’s chapel.

Evening—received tickets for an evening party at Palazzo del Corso; a private performance of Rossini’s *Stabat Mater*, by the first artists in Rome, professional and amateur; Madame not well enough, so Miss F. accepted her ticket—received by the host and hostess with more formality than expected—passed along through several ante-rooms and a score of servants; great crowd—all the Roman fashionables—distinguished strangers, three or four Cardinals, the Governor of Rome, &c. Performance wonderfully fine—Miss F. pronounced it better than the same work in Paris, by Grisi and the famous Italian company. Great crowd of carriages in waiting, but order admirably preserved by three or four dragoons; a very useful escort for a “rout.”

## Poetry.

### HEART QUESTIONINGS.

BY EMMA C. EMBURY.

“ To minister in life to those we love,  
And be in death remembered,—this is all  
A woman dreams of happiness.”

*The New Cassandra.*

WHEN Life’s false oracles, no more replying  
To baffled Hope, shall mock my weary quest,  
When in the grave’s cold shadow calmly lying,  
This heart at last has found its earthly rest,  
How will ye think of me?

Oh! gentle friends!  
How will ye think of me?

Perhaps the wayside flowers around ye springing,  
Wasting, unmarked, their fragrance and their  
bloom,  
Or some fresh fountain, through the forest singing,  
Unheard, unheeded, may recall my doom:  
Will ye thus think of me?

May not the daybeam glancing o’er the ocean,  
Picture my restless heart, which, like yon  
wave,  
Reflected doubly, in its wild commotion,  
Each ray of light that pleasure’s sunshine  
gave?

Will ye thus think of me?

Will ye bring back, by Memory’s art, the gladness  
That sent my fancies forth, like summer  
birds?  
Or will ye list that undertone of sadness,  
Whose music seldom shaped itself in words?  
Will ye thus think of me?

Remember not how dreams, around me thronging,  
Enticed me ever from life’s lowly way,  
But oh! still hearken to the deep soul-longing,  
Whose mournful tones pervade the poet’s lay.  
Will ye thus think of me?

And then, forgetting every wayward feeling,  
Bethink ye only that I loved ye well,  
Till o’er your souls that “late remorse” is stealing,  
Whose voiceless anguish only tears can tell.  
Will ye thus think of me?  
Oh, gentle friends!  
Will ye thus think of me?

## Works in Press.

## SPENSER'S "RUINS OF TIME."

[From an Essay on the Life and Writings of Edmund Spenser, with a special exposition of the Faery Queen; by John S. Hart, A.M.; now in Press by Wiley and Putnam.]

ON completing the publication of the first three books of the Faery Queen, Spenser returned to Ireland. The immediate fame, however, which he had acquired by that publication, caused everything from the same source to be in demand. Hence his publisher, in the following year, in the absence of the author, collected and printed in one volume several minor pieces which had been distributed in manuscript among the poet's friends.

The account which the publisher gives of the volume, is as follows: "Since my late setting forth of the Fairy Queen, finding that it hath found a favorable passage amongst you; I have . . . endeavored by all good means, . . . to get into my hands such small poems of the same author's as I heard were dispersed abroad in sundry hands, and not easy to be come by, by himself; some of them having been diversely embezzled and purloined from him, since his departure over sea. Of the which I have, by good means, gathered together these few parcels present, which I have caused to be imprinted all together, for that they all contain like manner of argument in them, being all complaints and meditations of the world's vanity, very grave and profitable." The collection was printed in quarto form, dated 1591. Its general title was in these words: "COMPLAINTS, containing sundry small Poems of the world's vanity; by Ed. Sp." This title originated with the publisher, and was given for the reason contained in the paragraph just quoted. The poems, however, are never quoted by this general title, but by the separate title given by the author to each separate piece.

The first poem in this collection is entitled "The Ruins of Time." It is dated 1591; and is dedicated to the "Right noble and beautiful Lady, the Lady Mary, Countess of Pembroke."

This noble lady was a person of high literary accomplishments, and the sister of his lamented friend Sidney. Both Sidney and Leicester were now dead, and Spenser had been for some years removed from the circle of those friends who had been his early and steadfast supporters. One object at least of the poem under consideration, was to testify his gratitude to this illustrious house for past favors. He seems to have been moved to the undertaking by an insinuation that he had forgotten his former friends. The tribute of affection which he brings is not the less agreeable from the fact, that at the time it was offered, his own star was in the ascendant, while that of his patrons was under a temporary cloud.

In proceeding to form some idea of the character of this poem, the reader is requested to bear in mind, that on the banks of the Thames, near the present city of St. Albans, were to be seen, in the time of Elizabeth, some crumbled walls and mounds, supposed to indicate the site of the ancient Roman town, Verolamium, Verulam, or Verlam. Imagine yourself then, gentle reader, straying with the poet along these mounds, while you read the following stanzas:

It chanced me one day beside the shore  
Of silver-streaming Thamesis to be,  
Nigh where godly Verlam stood of yore,  
Of which there now remains no memory,  
Nor any little monument to see,  
By which the traveller, that fares that way,  
*"This once was she,"* may warned be to say.

There, on the other side, I did behold  
A WOMAN sitting-sorrowfully waiting,  
Rending her yellow locks, like wavy gold,  
About her shoulders carelessly down trailing,  
And streams of tears from her fair eyes forth railing:  
In her right hand a broken rod she held,  
Which towards heaven she seemed on high to wield.

Perceiving something supernatural in the appearance of this female, and curious to know both who she was, and what was the cause of her unusual distress, the poet addresses her.

Much was I movéd, at her piteous plaint,  
And feit my heart nigh riven in my breast,  
With tender ruth to see her sore constraint;  
That, shedding tears a while, I still did rest,  
And after, did her name of her request.  
Name have I none (quoth she) nor any being,  
Bereft of both by Fate's unjust decreeing.

I was that city, which the garland wore  
Of Brittan's pride, delivered unto me  
By Roman Victors which it won of yore;  
Though nought at all but ruins now I be,  
And lie in mine own ashes, as ye see:  
VERLAM I was;—what boots it that I was,  
Since now I am but weeds and wasteful grass?

O vain world's glory, and unsteadfast state,  
Of all that lives on face of sinful earth!  
Which, from their first until their utmost date,  
Taste no one hour of happiness or mirth;  
But like as, at the ingate of their birth,  
They crying creep out of their mother's womb,  
So, wailing back, go to their woeful tomb.

This woman, the Genius of the ruined town, goes on in this tuneful but melancholy strain, through more than four hundred lines, to lament the *Ruins wrought by Time*. She passes briefly in review the ancient empires—Assyrian, Persian, Grecian, Roman—and then dwells with a heavy heart upon her own sorrowful fortunes.

To tell the beauty of my buildings fair,  
Adorned with puregold and precious stone,  
To tell my riches and endowments rare,  
That by my foes are now all spent and gone;  
To tell my forces, matchable to none:—  
Were but lost labour, that few would believe,  
And, with rehearsing, would me more aggrieve.

High towers, fair temples, goodly theatres,  
Strong walls, rich porches, princely palaces,  
Large streets, brave houses, sacred sepulchres,  
Sure gates, sweet gardens, stately galleries;  
Wrought with fair pillars and fine imageries;  
All those (O pity) now are turned to dust,  
And overgrown with black oblivion's rust.

The melancholy Genius continues in this way the sad recital of her woes, until the old grassy mound becomes to the reader a scene of the tenderest interest, when by a beautiful transition she passes to the real object of the whole poem.

But why (unhappy wight) do I thus cry,  
And grieve that my remembrance quite is razed  
Out of the knowledge of posterity,  
And all my antique monuments defaced?  
Since I do daily see things highest placed,  
So soon as Fates their vital thread have shorn,  
Forgotten quite as they were never born.

It is not long, since these two eyes beheld  
A mighty PRINCE, of most renowned race,  
Whom England high in count of honor held,  
And greatest ones did sue to gain his grace;  
Of greatest ones he, greatest in his place,  
Sat in the bosom of his sovereign,  
And Right and Loyal did his word maintain.

I saw him die, I saw him die as one  
Of the mean people, and brought forth on a bier;  
I saw him die, and no man left to moan  
His doleful fate, that him his loved dear:  
Scarce any left to close his eyelids near;  
Scarce any left upon his lips to lay  
The sacred sod, or Requiem to say.

It is hardly necessary to remark that the noble prince, whom the sorrowful lady thus celebrates, was Spenser's patron, the Earl of Leicester. She goes on:

He now is dead, and all his glory gone,  
And all his greatness vapoured to nought,  
That as a glass upon the water shone  
Which vanished quite, so soon as it was sought;  
His name is worn already out of thought,  
No any poet seeks him to revive;  
Yet many poets honoured him alive.

Ne doth his Colin, careless Colin Clout,  
Care now his idle bagpipe up to raise,  
Ne tell his sorrow to the listening rout  
Of Shephard grooms, which wont his songs to praise:  
Praise who so list, yet I will him dispraise,  
Until he quit him of this guilty blame:  
Wake, Shepherd Boy! at length awake for shame.

Having thus called upon Colin and the other shepherds to join in lamenting their common benefactor, she proceeds with her lamentations:

He died, and after him his brother died,  
His brother Prince, his brother noble peer.

And thus the woeful lady goes on to celebrate in succession, the virtues and princely deeds of different members of this distinguished family, dwelling of course with the tenderest affection upon SIDNEY.

Most gentle spirit, breathéd from above  
Out of the bosom of the Maker's bliss,  
In whom all bounty and all virtuous love  
Appeared in their native properties,  
And did enrich that noble breast of his  
With treasure passing all this world's worth  
Worthy of heaven itself, which brought it forth.

His happy spirit, full of power divine  
And influence of all celestial grace,  
Loathing this sinful earth and earthly slime,  
Fled back too soon unto his native place;  
Too soon for all that did his love embrace,  
Too soon for all this wretched world, whom he  
Robbed of all right and true nobility.

O noble spirit! live there, ever blessed,  
The world's late wonder and the heaven's new joy;  
Live ever there, and leave me here distressed  
With mortal cares and cumbrous world's annoy!  
But, where thou dost that happiness enjoy,  
Bid me, O bid me quickly come to thee,  
That happy there I may thence aways see!

Yet, whilst the Fates afford me vital breath,  
I will it spend in speaking of thy praise,  
And sing to thee, until that timely death,  
By heaven's doom to end my earthly days:  
Thereunto do thou my humble spirit raise,  
And unto me that sacred breath inspire,  
Which unto there breathest perfect and entire.

The woeful lady hopes that the verses which she has made to celebrate the different members of this illustrious house may not be consigned to oblivion. The Muse alone has power to confer immortality either upon men or their works. And so it is. Leicester, Sidney, and their peers, must for ever share the immortality of this beautiful poem; and thus they will not be, as they otherwise might have been, *among the Ruins of Time*.

At the last, the sorrowful lady disappears, and the poet falls into a reverie. Under the influence of the subjects which have been presented to his excited imagination, twelve VISIONS, or phantasms, rise before him in rapid succession and as rapidly disappear. Each vision is described in a stanza or sonnet of fourteen lines, and presents in itself a complete picture. The first six visions are various scenes representing the instability of earthly happiness; the other six are as many scenes representing the enduring nature of that happiness which is linked with the skies. One of each will be sufficient to give the reader an idea of the whole.

Then did I see a pleasant PARADISE,  
Full of sweet flowers and daintiest delights,  
Such as on earth man could not more devise,  
With pleasures choice to feed his cheerful sprites:  
Not that which Merlin by his magic sleights  
Made for the gentle Squire, to entertain  
His fair Belphoebe, could this garden stain.  
But, oh, short pleasure bought with lasting pain!  
Why will hereafter any flesh delight  
In earthly bliss, and joy in pleasures vain,  
Since that I saw this garden wasted quite,  
That where it was, scarce seeméd any sight?  
That I, which once that beauty did behold,  
Could not from tears my melting eyes withhold.

Now for a vision of the other kind.

Upon that famous river's farther shore,  
There stood a snowy SWAN of heavenly hue,  
And gentle kind, as ever fowl afore;  
A fairer one in all the goodly crew,  
Of white Strimonian brood might no man view:  
There he most sweetly sung the prophecy  
Of his own death in doleful elegy.  
At last, when all his mourning melody  
He ended had, that both the shores resounded,  
Feeling the fit that him forewarned to die,  
With lofty flight above the earth he bounded,  
And out of sight to highest heaven mounted,  
Where now he is become an heavenly sign:  
There now the joy is his, here sorrow mine!

Such is an outline of Spenser's poem called "The Ruins of Time." It is not, as the nominal subject might lead us to fear, a collection of wise saws and common-place declamation—not, as we might perhaps expect from its real subject, a tissue of empty compliments;—but it is the generous outpouring of affection from a warm heart touched by the fire of true genius. The poem is of moderate size, containing in all six hundred and eighty-eight lines. It is neither elaborate nor highly finished: yet it does not merit the tone of disparagement with which it is sometimes mentioned. It is instinct with genius; it is eminently Spenserian; it is, with all its faults, eminently beautiful.

## Glimpses of Books.

**ABDUCTIONS IN IRELAND**—An association was formed in the south of Ireland, which could not have existed in any other country. This association was an “abduction club,” the members of which bound themselves by an oath to assist in carrying off such young women as were fixed upon by any of the members. They had emissaries and confederates in every house, who communicated information of particulars—the extent of the girl’s fortune, the state and circumstances of the family, with details of their intentions and domestic arrangements and movements. When a girl was thus pointed out, the members drew lots, but more generally tossed for her, and immediate measures were taken to secure her for the fortunate man by all the rest. No class of society was exempt from their visits, and opulent farmers as well as the gentry were subject to these engagements of the clubs, according to their rank in life.

The persons who were most usually concerned in such clubs were a class of men abounding in Ireland, called “squires.” They were the younger sons or connexions of respectable families, having little or no patrimony of their own, but who scorned to *demean* themselves by any useful or profitable pursuit. They are described by Arthur Young and other writers of the day, as distinguished in fairs and markets, races and assizes, by appearing in red waistcoats, lined with narrow lace or fur, tight leather breeches and top boots, riding “a bit of blood” lent or given them from the stables of their opulent connexions.

One of these bloods, McNaghtan, a young man of good family, who had graduated at Trinity college, and ran through his fortune, paid attentions to Miss Knox, but her father interdicted the marriage. The lover, one day finding her alone, took a prayer book from his pocket and read the marriage ceremony to her, she repeating the responses, and adding to each, “provided my father consents.” After this he publicly claimed her, but the marriage was set aside by a process in the spiritual court, and McNaghtan lay in wait for the judge with intent to murder him. The judge luckily escaped by taking a different route. To detach his daughter from this unfortunate connexion, Mr. Knox resolved to leave the country, and introduce her to the society of the metropolis; and in the beginning of November, 1761, prepared to set out for Dublin. McNaghtan and a party of his friends having information of his intention, repaired to a cabin a little distance from the road with a sack full of firearms. From hence one of the party was dispatched to the house of an old woman who lived by the way-side, under the pretence of buying some yarn, to wait for the coming up of Mr. Knox’s carriage. When it did arrive, the woman pointed it out, named the travellers it contained, and described the position in which they sat. They were Mr. Knox, his wife, his daughter, and a maid-servant. It was attended by but one servant. The scout ran before, and communicated to McNaghtan the information he had received. The carriage was instantly surrounded by him and three other men. McNaghtan and one of his accomplices fired at the driver, whom they did not kill, but totally disabled. The blinds of the carriage were now close drawn, that the persons inside might not be recognised. McNaghtan rode up to it, and either by accident or design, discharged a heavily loaded blunderbuss into it at random. A shriek was heard inside. The blind was let down, and Mr. Knox discharged his pistol at the assassin. At the same moment another was fired from behind a stack of turf, by the servant who had concealed himself there. Both shots took effect in the body of McNaghtan. He was, however, held on his horse by his associates, who rode off with him. The carriage was then examined. Miss Knox was found dead, weltering in her blood. On the first alarm, she had thrown her arm about her father’s neck, to protect him, and so received the contents of the murderer’s firearms. Five

balls of the blunderbuss had entered her body, leaving the other three persons in the carriage with her unhurt and untouched by this random shot.

The country was soon alarmed, and a reward of five hundred pounds offered for the apprehension of the murderers. A company of light horse scoured the district, and amongst other places were led to search the house of a farmer named Wenslow. The family denied all knowledge of McNaghtan, and the party were leaving the house when the corporal said to one of his companions, in the hearing of a countryman who was digging potatoes, that the discoverer would be entitled to a reward of three hundred pounds. The countryman immediately pointed to a hayloft, and the corporal running up a ladder, burst open the door, and discovered McNaghtan lying in the hay. Notwithstanding his miserably wounded state, he made a desperate resistance, but was ultimately taken and lodged in Lifford gaol, and finally hanged.—*Ireland sixty years ago.*

**PAT POWER.**—When travelling in England, he had many encounters with persons who were attracted by his brogue and clumsy appearance. On one occasion a group of gentlemen were sitting in a box at one end of the room when Power entered at the other. The representative of Irish manners at this time on the English stage, was a tissue of ignorance, blunders, and absurdities, and when a real Irishman appeared off the stage, he was always supposed to have the characteristics of his class, and so to be a fair butt for ridicule. When Power took his seat in the box, the waiter came to him with a gold watch, with a gentleman’s compliments, and a request to know what o’clock it was by it. Power took the watch, and then directed the waiter to let him know the person that sent it; he pointed out one of the group. Power rang the bell for his servant, and directed him to bring his pistols and follow him. He put them under his arm, and with the watch in his hand, walked up to the box, and presenting the watch, begged to know to whom it belonged. When no one was willing to own it, he drew his own old silver one from his fob, and presented it to his servant, desiring him to keep it; and putting up the gold one, he gave his name and address, and assured the company he would keep it safe till called for. It never was claimed.

On another occasion he ordered supper, and while waiting for it he read the newspaper. After some time the waiter laid two covered dishes on the table, and when Power examined their contents he found they were two dishes of smoking potatoes. He asked the waiter to whom he was indebted for such good fare, and he pointed to two gentlemen in the opposite box. Power desired his servant to attend him, and directing him in Irish what to do, quietly made his supper off the potatoes, to the great amusement of the Englishmen. Presently his servant appeared with two more covered dishes, one of which he laid down before his master, and the other before the persons in the opposite box. When the covers were removed, there was found in each a loaded pistol. Power took up his and cocked it, telling one of the others to take up the second, assuring him “they were at a very proper distance for a close shot, and if one fell he was ready to give satisfaction to the other.” The parties immediately rushed out without waiting for a second invitation, and with them several persons in the adjoining box. As they were all in too great a hurry to pay their reckoning, Power paid it for them along with his own.—*Sketches of Ireland sixty years ago.*

**ORIGINAL LETTER OF NAPOLEON BONAPARTE.**—The highly interesting collection of letters of the Corsican General Paoli (*lettere di Pasquale de Paoli, Florence, 1846*), published by Nicolo Tommaso, contains a hitherto unpublished letter, written by Napoleon at the age of fifteen. It is addressed to his maternal uncle, Abbé Josef Fesch, and was communicated to the

Editor by Chevalier Luigi Baldelli, member of the Royal Court of Justice, at Bastia, in Corsica. The letter was written in French.

Brienne, 15th July, 1784.

My dear uncle—I write to inform you that my dear father stopped at Brienne, on his way through; he was going to Paris to take Marianne (Elise) to St. Cyr, and for the recovery of his health. He arrived here on the 21st (June?) with Lucien and the other two girls, whom you have seen; the former he left here behind him; he is 9 years old, and is 3 feet, 11 inches, 6 lines in height; in Latin he is in the sixth class, and will pass through the various branches of instruction. He shows much ability and good will, so that we may hope he will turn out well. He is in good health, full of life and spirits, and as a beginner, gives satisfaction. He speaks French with fluency, but has quite forgotten his Italian. He will add a few lines to this letter, but I shall not give him any help that you may know his *savoir faire*. I hope he will now write to you more often than he did at Autun. I am convinced that my brother Joseph has not written to you. And how should he? He writes only two lines to my dear father—and that is seldom enough. In truth he is no longer what he was—I am the only one to whom he writes pretty often. He is in the class of Rhetoric, and would certainly distinguish himself if he would but work, for the Principal assured my dear father, that there was not another pupil in the whole college who possessed such decided talents for physics, rhetoric, and philosophy, and that none excelled him in translation. With regard to the profession which he prefers, you know that the Church is the one which he first fixed upon. He continued in this mind till to-day, when he resolved to serve the king. He is very wrong in this, in many respects. In the first place, as my dear father observes, he has not sufficient courage to encounter the dangers of a combat—his delicate health will not permit him to undergo the hardships of a campaign—and my brother’s notions of the military profession are very much those of a garrison life. And, in truth, my dear brother will make a capital barrack officer; he is well educated, of a gay turn of mind, and consequently well adapted for frivolous compliments, while his talents will render him agreeable in society—but how will he do in battle? This my dear father rather doubts.

Qu’importe à des guerriers ces frivoles avantages ?  
Que sont tous les trésors sans celui du courage ?  
A ce prix fuissez-vous aussi beau qu’Adonis,  
Du Dieu même du Pindé eussiez-vous l’éloquence,  
Que sont tous ces dons sans celui de la vaillance ?

In the second place he has had an education for the Church—so that this change of mind comes somewhat too late. My lord bishop of Autun would have given him a rich living, and he would no doubt have been made a bishop. What an advantage for our family! The bishop of Autun did all in his power to induce him to adhere to his original intention, by assuring him that he should have no reason to repent of his determination. But it was of no use—he would not be shaken. I should certainly commend him, if it arose from a decided preference for this profession, the finest of all, and if the great author of human affairs had, in the formation of his character, given to him as he did to me, a decided love for military life. In the third place, he wants a commission—well—but in what corps? Perhaps in the marine? But then he knows nothing of mathematics, and would require two years to learn them; and then his health will not stand the sea. Perhaps in engineering? He would take four or five years to acquire the necessary knowledge, and after this period he would only be an élève. Besides, I think, that to study from morning till evening, would be wholly incompatible with his frivolous mind. The same objection would apply to the artillery, yet, with this exception, that he might be an élève in a year and a half, and an officer within the same period after. But all this is not to his taste. Well then, he must doubtless go into the infantry. I could

understand this—he would like to idle away the whole day, and *battre le pavé*. But what, after all, is an inferior officer of infantry? A bad subject enough in three cases out of four. But no one will give his consent to this, neither my dear father nor yourself, nor my mother, nor yet my uncle, the archdeacon, for he has already given several specimens of his frivolity and extravagance. We shall therefore make one more attempt to induce him to decide for the Church, and, if we do not succeed, my dear father will carry him with him back to Corsica, and keep him under his own eye. There he would endeavor to get him made a lawyer. In conclusion, let me entreat you to continue your favor towards me, of which it will be my highest duty to render myself worthy. I remain, with the most profound respect, my dear uncle, your obedient and devoted servant and nephew,

NAPOLEON DI BUONAPARTE.

P. S. Pray destroy this letter.

### Miscellany.

#### SONNET LINES TO —.

DOTH the new token  
Demand a new rhyme?  
Sound the words spoken  
In the old time,  
As if a bell broken,  
Should waken a chime?  
  
The old song may be shattered,  
But the lyre is still sound:  
The first rose leaves be scattered,  
But young buds abound:  
For love's tears have watered  
The root 'neath the ground.  
  
The tie is not bounded  
By earth or long time,  
Which the heart hath compounded  
Of emotions sublime;  
Divinest when wounded—  
When tenderest, no crime.  
  
As the shade on the dial  
When the sun hath gone down,  
Is the life of denial  
Which the loving must own,  
While the guerdon of trial  
Is the cross, not the crown.  
  
Though no ray may brighten  
That dark dial-plate,  
And, the blackness to heighten,  
Falls the shadow of Fate,  
Future hours to enlighten,  
God, a sun may create.  
  
May affection embolden  
To use every power,  
That naught be withholden  
To fit for the hour  
When the spirit-wing golden  
Shall raise to His bower.

Aug. 20, 1847.

C.

A PRAISEWORTHY example of perseverance in the attainment of an education under embarrassment, is brought to our knowledge by a Massachusetts paper in the following case of a Jerseyman :

" Among the graduating class at the Commencement last week at Williams College, was one by the name of Condit, from Jersey. This gentleman is a shoe-maker, is married, and has a family of four children. Six years ago, becoming sensible of the blessings of an education, he commenced learning the simple branches, such as are taught in our primary schools. One by one, as he sat on his shoe-maker's bench, he mastered grammar, arithmetic, geography, &c., with some occasional assistance from his fellow workmen. At this time he determined to obtain a collegiate education. Without means and with a large family depending on him for support, he commenced, and learned Latin and Greek in

the evenings, after his day's labor was over, under the direction of a friend; and after the lapse of a year and a half, prepared himself, and entered the sophomore class of Williams College.

" He brought his bench and tools as well as his books with him. The students supplied him with work; the faculty assisted him; and together with the fund for indigent students and some occasional assistance from other sources, he was enabled to go through the college course, and at the same time support his family. He graduated last week, on his birth-day, aged thirty-two. He stood high in his class, and received a part at commencement, but declined. At the farewell meeting of the class, in consideration of his perseverance, talents, and Christian character, they presented his wife with an elegant set of silver spoons, tea and table, each handsomely engraved with an appropriate inscription. Mr. Condit will now enter the theological seminary at New York, and will, no doubt, make a faithful and popular minister."

not with the method he pursued, but with the excess to which he carried it. In Feuerbach's remarkable trials, instances will be found of almost as revolting attempts to extort confession. The fault is more in the mode of procedure in the German tribunals than in the magistrate.

Englishmen, accustomed to see every chance of escape afforded to parties accused of crime, feel shocked at such proceedings. But what is the practice in our own courts? The moral torture from which the culprit is exempted is applied to the innocent witnesses. On the trial of Courvoisier (and other instances might be named), ignorant and timid women were terrified and confused by broad insinuations from the murderer's counsel that *they* were the guilty parties. The most unwarrantable license is constantly indulged in by our Old Bailey counsel to excite distrust of respectable witnesses in the minds of the jury, or to torture them into contradictions.—*London Spectator*.

SERGENT THE TERRORIST.—The *Courrier de Marseilles* publishes the following letter, dated Nice, the 26th ult.:—" We have just assisted at the obsequies of one of the last members of the French National Convention. M. Sergent-Marceau died yesterday, in the 98th year of his age. He departed this life without pain, and preserved until the last moment the full use of all his faculties. He called for and received the last sacraments of the Catholic Church, and dictated himself a voluminous will, in which he disposed of his furniture (of small value) and the few works of art that constituted his whole wealth. His heir is a Frenchman, whom he adopted, and who is now a naturalized Austrian. His body was deposited in the same tomb with the remains of his wife, sister of the celebrated General Marceau, and for whose memory he exhibited to the last moment the most affectionate devotion. In the same tomb is enclosed an urn, containing the ashes of General Marceau, so that the fervent wish of those three friends to be united after death has been fulfilled. At the moment when a number of Frenchmen residing at Nice were about to quit the cemetery, M. Carnot, one of the deputies from Paris, and son of the celebrated general of that name, pronounced a few affecting words respecting his private life, and afterwards referred to various circumstances of his political career. M. Sergent had figured actively among the party of 'the Mountain.' He commanded the armed citizens of the Faubourg St. Antoine on the 20th of June, and at the massacre of the Swiss Guards, on the 10th August. He voted for the death of Louis XVI., 'without appeal to the people or delay in the execution.' He never repented that vote, and was often heard to repeat that if it were to be done over again he should not hesitate. He was secretary of Robespierre. M. de Chateaugiron, Consul-General of France, assisted at the funeral of M. Sergent-Marceau. M. de Chateaugiron had been in his youth aide-de-camp of General Marceau, and was indebted to M. Sergent for his life, during the reign of terror."

HORSE-FLESH AS FOOD.—The following is from a Danish paper, *The Faderland*:—" In consequence of the present dearness of various articles of first necessity, and among them meat, Dr. With, principal of the veterinary school, has published a little work 'On the use of Horse-flesh as Human Food,' which certainly deserves more general attention. The use of it is, however, nothing new or unheard of in this country; as early as 1810, through the exertions of the late Professor E. Wiborg, the magistrates of Denmark and Norway were enjoined to endeavor to root out the prejudice against horse-flesh, and to encourage people to take out licenses for horse-slaughter-houses, and by police regulations to guard against the sale of other than wholesome meat. In the meantime, the low price of beef that prevailed for a series of years (3d. per pound) has no doubt been the cause that horse-flesh rarely appeared at table; it has only been at the Christianshaon house of correction that it has

A French surgeon asserts that by exposing men and animals to a galvanic current from Clarke's electro-magnetic apparatus, he has succeeded in rendering them as insensible to pain as if they had inhaled sulphuric acid.

GERMAN AND ENGLISH FORMS OF TRIAL.—Though Christianity is now well nigh two thousand years old men are as apt as ever to see the mote in their brother's eye and overlook the beam in their own.

At a recent sitting of a court of justice at Ulm, a peasant was tried for murder. He vehemently protested his innocence. The Judge reminded him that he had confessed himself guilty to the magistrate who at first examined him. The accused explained, that he had made the confession under the influence of moral torture: the magistrate threw in his face the hands of the murdered man, showed him the ribs of the corpse, and told him the spirit of the dead would haunt him if he persisted in denying the crime. The magistrate, being called upon, admitted the truth of this statement: the trial was postponed, and an inquiry into the conduct of the magistrate ordered. The German jurists, however, quarrel

since that time been generally used. Now that the price of beef has doubled, it would appear that the use of horse-flesh has spread among the poorer classes. Within the last two months, at the two horse slaughter-houses of Christianshavn (the Wapping of Copenhagen) sixty horses have been slaughtered, which have yielded 26,000 pounds of meat, of which the Christianshavn house of correction has consumed about one-fifth; the rest has been sold at the price of 1*l*d. to 1*l*d. per pound. As horse-flesh is such wholesome and nourishing food that want alone need not force people to consume it, and there are various modes of dressing it, by which its sweet taste can be got rid of and it becomes as well-flavored as beef, it would appear that a great saving in housekeeping might be effected at present prices by its introduction. Dr. With shows under what circumstances it is a wholesome, and in what cases an unwholesome, article of food. It was currently reported that the late King of Denmark had a dish of horse-flesh on the Royal table, in order, by his example, to do what he could to overcome the prejudice against it as an article of human food. It is a curious circumstance, that one of the great difficulties in the introduction of Christianity in the north was the fondness of the Scandinavians for horse-flesh, which the priests of those days considered as the food of idolators, and strictly forbade their converts the use of.

**A MODERN MIRACLE!—*Sermons in Stones.***—Shakspeare read “sermons in stones,” but we doubt whether he ever dreamt of deriving a rope from the same source. And yet if a “sermon,” why not a “long yarn?” Modern ingenuity has not found it a thing impossible. A rope, nearly three miles long, now lies on the verge of the borough of Gateshead, which was the other day a stone in the bowels of the earth! Smelted, the stone yielded iron. The iron was converted into wire. The wire was brought to the wire-rope manufactory of R. S. Newell and Co., at the Teams, near Gateshead, and there twisted into a line 4,660 yards long! It is, we believe, the stoutest rope of the kind that was ever made. It weighs 20 tons 5 cwt., and will cost the purchasers upwards of 1,134*l*. It is intended for the incline on the Edinburgh and Glasgow Railway, near the latter city. A rope of hemp, of equal strength, would weigh 33*1*/<sub>2</sub> tons, and cost about 300*l.* more—*Gateshead Observer.*

**CAN A TERRIER BE SWORN?**—“Can a dog lend money?” asked *Shylock*, but the question is now raised, can a terrier be sworn?—*L'Helvétique* (a Swiss journal) says that M. Bois le Comte (the French ambassador) has addressed to the Bernese government a menacing note, in which he demands satisfaction, because a terrier dog, which was on the Engi, walking by the side of M. Jenric, editor of *Le Charivari*, wore, suspended to its collar, two crosses, one of which he pretends was the cross of the legion of honor!—It is said that the terrier's collar was in fact adorned with something like two pieces of tin, more or less resembling two crosses.—“It will be necessary, no doubt,” remarks *L'Helvétique*, “in order to undeceive M. Bois le Comte, to produce the collar and tin crosses; and, perhaps, it will be necessary for the terrier itself to give in its oath.”

### Recent Publications.

**The Devotional Family Bible.** By the Rev. Alexander Fletcher, D.D., author of “The Guide to Family Devotion,” “Scriptural History,” &c. New York: George Virtue.

THE eight new numbers just issued of this magnificent work, surpass if possible those that preceded them, in the elegance of typography, and paper, and richness of illustration. We would again repeat the suggestion we have made heretofore, that our distant readers should, when chancing to pass through New York, embrace the opportunity of examining this work for

themselves, at No. 26 John street. Some of the engravings from the old masters are beautiful in the extreme, and the chaste style in which the work is executed throughout, commends it pre-eminently to all persons of taste.

Dr. Fletcher's edition of the Bible, with its explanatory notes and practical observations and copious marginal references, its engravings from the sacred paintings of the great masters, and its elaborate landscape views of the remarkable places mentioned in Scripture, may with some of our readers give a fresh interest to the following account of the early Saxon and English versions of the Bible, which we copy from an old number of the *Christian Instructor*:

“That the Gospel was preached in Britain so early as the close of the first century, is asserted by many learned historians. But there is no evidence of the existence of any ancient Briton version of the Bible: this, however, is accounted for by the fact that the Latin language was generally understood and spoken. Tacitus mentions, in his life of Agricola, that the Latin grammar was a necessary branch of a liberal education; and Gildas, the earliest British historian, observes that the Latin language was so generally used, that Britain might rather be called a Roman, than a British Island.

“The Saxons, at the time of their invasion of the island, were ignorant and bloody idolators; but by degrees the religion of Christ, though not in its purest form, gained ground among them, bringing with it learning and the peaceful arts. In the 7th century, Caedmon, a monk, made a poetical version of some of the more remarkable passages of the Old Testament history. ‘He sang,’ says Bede, ‘of the creation of the world, of the origin of the human race, the whole book of Genesis, Israel's egress from Egypt and entrance in Canaan, and many other parts of sacred story.’ In the 8th century, Aldhelm, Bishop of Sherburn, and Guthlac, an anchorite, are reputed to have made each of them, a literal version of the Psalter; the former of these versions, according to Spelman, was lost before the times of Alfred the Great. Among the Cotton MSS., there is a very ancient Psalter in Latin and Saxon which Mr. Baber thinks was one of the books brought by Augustin into England; the Latin text bears the marks of Italian origin, but the author of the Saxon interlinear translation is unknown, though all agree in assigning to it a high antiquity.

“Venerable Bede gives an account of Aidan (A.D. 635), a Scottish Bishop, who fixed his see in Holy Island, and took care that all who travelled with him, whether clergy or laity, should spend a considerable part of their time in reading the Holy Scriptures; and the Saxon homilies exhort the people with great earnestness to the performance of the same duty, and enforce the advice by the great benefit resulting from the exercise. These facts clearly imply the existence of some versions at this early day, in the vulgar tongue, though most of them have perished—a circumstance no way surprising, when we consider the inevitable effects of those two memorable invasions of England by the Danes and the Normans.

“Bede, himself, amidst his numerous employments, was largely occupied in promoting the study and the reading of the Bible. Besides writing commentaries on most of the books of the Old and New Testaments, he translated a considerable portion of them into the Anglo-Saxon. Fox says he translated the whole Bible; according to others, his labors in this way were confined to the Psalms and the Gospel of John. He died in a most devout and pious manner, May 26th, 735. One of the best acts of his life was the translation of the Gospel of John into Saxon. Having been confined for some weeks by sickness, during which he had been employed on the translation, and death now seizing him, his amanuensis said, ‘My beloved master, there is but one sentence unwritten.’ ‘Write it, then, quickly,’ replied the dying Bede, and summoning up all his energies, he indited it, and—expired.

“Eadfrid, Bishop of Lindisfarne, and contemporary of Bede, is supposed by some writers to have made a Saxon version of the gospel; but Mr. Bulwer says this is a mistake, which has probably arisen from his having translated the Gospels into Latin, to which a Saxon interlinear translation was added by a later hand. This book is known as the *Durham Book*, and is one of the finest specimens of Saxon calligraphy and decoration extant.

“The Anglo-Saxon version of the Gospels which lay the next claim to antiquity, is called the *Rushworth Glow*; and, like the one just mentioned, contains both Latin and Saxon versions; it is assigned to the 10th century. At the end of Matthew's Gospel, we are told that ‘Farmen Presbyter thus hue thus gleosode;’ and at the end of the volume, ‘the min burche gibide for Own the thas boe gleosode Farmen thaem piæost act Harawada.’ Besides the above, there are a few other Saxon versions of the Gospels, whose ages and authors are unknown. We shall only observe respecting these versions, that they appear to have been made, not from the Vulgate, but the Old Italic.

“It has been often said that Alfred the Great translated the whole Bible; he prefixed to his body of laws a translation of a few chapters of Exodus, and in his age began a version of the Psalms, which he did not live to finish; according to Mr. Baber, there is no evidence of his having done more.

“Of the early Saxon scholars, the first one who attempted to give his countrymen the Old Testament in their own tongue, was Elfric, a monk of the 10th century. This version, which embraced only the historical books, was published in 1695. In consequence of the disturbed state of the kingdom, produced by incursions of the Danes, and the conquest by the Normans, Saxon literature gradually declined, ‘and we may date its fall to about one hundred years after the Conquest, when the language had become so far changed as to have assumed that form which entitles it to the appellation of English.’ The following extract from the oldest English Psalter, will serve to show the state of our language in the 11th century: it is from Psalm 100.

“Mirthes to God al erthe that es  
Sowes to louerd in faines  
In go yhe at in his silt  
In glad nes that is so bright.

“Whites that louerd God is he thus  
He us made and ourself noht us  
Ais folk and shep of his fode,  
In gos his yhatnes that are gode.”

“The first *literal* English translation of any part of Holy Writ was made towards the middle of the 14th century, by Richard Rolle, who, however, translated only the Psalter; the *versio princeps* of the Psalms in English. In the preface, the author says, ‘in this work seke no stranger Ynglis, but lightest and comonest, and swilk that is most like unto the Latyne, so that thai that knowes not the Latyne be the Ynglys may come to many Latyne words.’

“But to John Wyclif, ‘the morning star of the Reformation,’ belongs the honor of having made the first complete English version of the Holy Bible. This translation was made from the vulgar Latin, about the year 1380. We shall conclude this article with a brief specimen of Wyclif's version, viz. of the Lord's Prayer;—“Our fader that art in heavens; halewid be thi namv; Thy kyngdom come to, be thy wil done in erthe as in hevene. Give us this day our breed ovir other substance. And forgive to us our dettis as we forgiven to our dettours. And lede us not into temptation: but delivere us from yvil, amen.”

**Essay on the Generative Principles of Political Constitutions, translated from the French of Count Joseph de Maistre.** Boston: Little & Brown.

THIS handsomely printed little treatise, as given to the public by the American translator, is full of suggestiveness for the philosophizing politician. “The work,” says the translator,

"is submitted to the candor of the thoughtful reader, in the hope that it may lead to a more just recognition of the hand of God in the history of the world." The Essay was originally published in 1809, but some of its points would lead one to think that it might have been produced here in the State of New York, within the last two years, and during the session of our late constitutional convention; for instance, "was it not believed on all sides, that a constitution is the work of intelligence, like an ode or a tragedy?"

"I do not believe that the age has produced a single tyro of any talent who has not made three things on leaving college—a System of Education for Youth, a Constitution, and a World."

But let our author speak more fully upon this matter of substituting the dreams of theorists for the teachings of experience, and imposing upon a community a political system which has been manufactured in the closet of the projector, instead of gradually developing itself from the general mind.

"We are deceived on this point by a sophism so natural, that it entirely escapes our attention. Because man acts, he thinks he acts alone; and because he has the consciousness of his liberty, he forgets his dependence. In the physical order, he listens to reason; for although he can, for example, plant an acorn, water it, etc., he is convinced that he does not make the oaks, because he witnesses their growth and perfection without the aid of human power; and moreover, that he does not make the acorn; but in the order, where he is present, and acts, he fully believes that he is really the sole author of all that is done by himself. This is, in a sense, as if the trowel should believe itself the architect. Man is a free, intelligent, and noble being: without doubt; but he is not less an *instrument of God*, according to a happy expression of Plutarch, in a beautiful passage which here introduces itself of its own accord:

"We must not wonder, he says, if the most beautiful and greatest things in the world are done by the will and providence of God; seeing that in all the greatest and principal parts of the world there is a soul: for the organ and tool of the soul is the body, and the soul is the INSTRUMENT OF GOD. And as the body has of itself many movements, and as the greater and more noble are derived from the soul, even so it is with the soul; some of its operations being self-moved, while in others it is directed, disciplined, and guided, by God, as it pleases Him; being itself the most beautiful organ and ingenious instrument possible: for it would be a strange thing indeed that the wind, the water, the clouds, and the ruins, should be instruments of God, with which He nourishes and supports many creatures, and also destroys many others, and that He should never make use of living beings to perform any of His works. For it is far more reasonable that they, depending entirely on the power of God, should obey His direction, and accomplish all His will, than that the bow should obey the Scythians, the lyre and flute the Greeks."

"No one could write better: and I do not believe that these beautiful reflections could be more justly applied, than to the formation of political constitutions, where it may be said, with equal truth, that man does everything, and does nothing.

"Every instrument is good in the hands of the great Artificer; but such is the blindness of men, that if, to-morrow, some constitution-monger should come to organize a people, and to give them a constitution made with a little black liquid, the multitude would again hasten to believe in the miracle announced. It would be said, again, *nothing is wanting; all is foreseen, all is written*; whilst, precisely because all could be foreseen, discussed, and written, it would be demonstrated, that the constitution is a nullity, and presents to the eye merely an ephemeral appearance."

Plutarch's Banquet of the Seven Ages.

This last exposure of the folly of basing a constitution upon scientific deductions, and upon human reasoning *a priori*, is further illustrated in the following note by the translator, from a more recent work.

"Modern Philosophy is altogether too material and too presumptuous, to perceive the true jurisdiction of the political world. One of its follies, is that of believing that an assembly can constitute a nation; that a *constitution*, that is to say, the *ensemble* of fundamental laws which are suited for a nation, and which give to it some definite form of government, is a performance, like another, which requires intelligence, knowledge, and practice; that one may learn his trade of *constituting*; and that men, at the moment they imagine the necessity of it, can say to other men, *make us a government*, just as is said to an artisan, *make us a fire engine, or a stocking loom*.

"Yet it is a truth as certain, in its kind, as a mathematical proposition, that *no great institution results from deliberation*, and that human works are fragile, in proportion to the number of men who engage in them, and to the amount of science and reasoning *a priori*, employed about them."

Tom Paine declared that *a constitution does not exist so long as one cannot put it into his pocket*; our author, on the contrary, insists that "the fundamental principle of political constitutions exists before all written law, and that a constitutional law is, and can only be the development or sanction of an unwritten pre-existing right."

We regret that a position so sound as this is enforced in some parts of the treatise with arguments which tend equally to establish toryism and the divine right of kings. The trite metrical axiom, "whatever is best administered is best," would seem, after all, to sum up the result of the ingenious Count's patient teachings. Still, as we have said, the Essay has a curious value to the American reader, from its numerous lively expositions of Doctrine most radically antithetical to our prevailing Alleghanian notions about Constitution-mongering.

*The Lu Lu Books.* S. Colman. Boston. Mr. Colman, aided by some accomplished domestic pens, seems to have entered largely into the preparation of children's attractive books; which are got up with a prettiness of fancy and variety of design which make his still increasing collection offer a wide choice to the little intelligences of a smaller growth.

*Outlines of the Veins and Lymphatics; with short descriptions, designed for the Use of Students.* By John Neill, M.D., Demonstrator of Anatomy in the University of Pennsylvania, &c. Svo, pp. 29. Philadelphia: Barrington & Haswell. 1847.

This little work is well designed. It contains eight plates or lithographs, showing the distribution of the veins and lymphatics, the former being colored. The several vessels have the appropriate names marked on them, in the same manner that rivers are commonly designated on geographical maps. The work is calculated to facilitate students in acquiring a knowledge of human Anatomy. It should be borne in mind, however, that Anatomy cannot be learned without diligent use of the knife on the dead subject. We commend the book to the attention of students of Anatomy.

*Lectures on Subjects connected with Chemical Medicine.* By P. M. Latham, M.D. Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians, and Physician to St. Bartholomew's Hospital. 2d edition, Svo, pp. 158. Philadelphia: Barrington & Haswell. 1847.

THESE lectures, as well as those subsequently published by the same author, on diseases of the heart, are deservedly popular among medical men. They are written in a familiar colloquial style, and strongly impress the reader with the

earnestness and honesty of the author. The volume contains fifteen lectures, ten of which are on the Doctrine of Symptoms, and five on Medical education, and modes of acquiring professional knowledge. Dr. Latham possesses in a high degree, rare quality, known as professional common sense.

As a specimen of the style of the author, we extract the following reasons why Surgery is more popular, held in higher esteem than the practice of Medicine :

"But I am now speaking of the ordinary routine of cases, such as we find them in hospitals; and, upon a comparison of such cases, Surgery is certainly much easier than Medicine; and students take to it more readily because it is easier.

"Surgery, for the most part, requires fewer circumstances to bring you to a knowledge of its object than Medicine does. In Surgery there are prominent points of interest, which arrest and command attention at once; in Medicine the points of interest are to be sought after, and, being found, are to be retained and cherished by much labor of the understanding. External sores, inflammation, and broken bones, require only to be seen and handled in order to be known. But the same knowledge which, in Surgery, is obtained by the use of the senses, in Medicine, which is conversant with internal disease, can only be acquired by a process of reasoning; and reasoning is more difficult than seeing and touching, and its conclusions are more uncertain, and much more liable to error.

"Moreover, the adaptation of curative means requires more vigilance in Medicine than in Surgery. There is no end of the circumstances to be taken into consideration day after day, in order to practise Medicine with tolerable success. A man has an *external* inflammation: the Surgeon sees it, and is at once sure of its existence; he prescribes for it, and sees its gradual decline as plainly as he saw its first rise and progress. A man has an *internal* inflammation; but the physician, not seeing it, is obliged to come to the knowledge of its existence by a great variety of considerations: he prescribes for it, and is again obliged to enter into a variety of considerations before he can know that it has begun to decline or has ceased. The uncertainty of physic I readily admit; but I do not admit the vulgar reproach which has followed from it. There is nothing absolutely sure but what rests upon the basis of numbers, or falls within the sphere of the senses. Where reasoning begins, there begins uncertainty; and on this account the highest and best things in the world are all uncertain, and so is our profession. But from this very uncertainty those who practise it successfully claim their greatest honor; for where there is no possibility of error, no praise is due to the judgment of what is right.

"Another reason why Surgery is more popular than Medicine is, that it is easier for pupils to make Surgical cases a matter of discussion and conversation among themselves, and thus to convey an interest to each other respecting them. They can agree about the extent of this burn and that fracture, and understand each other when they talk about them; but concerning the progress of a fever, and all its circumstances—how they differ to-day from what they were yesterday, and what influence the means employed have had in determining the changes which have taken place—it is quite impossible that they should have any very general conversation. It is necessary to be in the presence of the patient to point them out. Language often fails of terms to designate them; and the most experienced often find a difficulty in making themselves intelligible to each other in speaking of them."

*Illustrations of Medical Botany.* Consisting of colored figures of the plants affording the important articles of the *Materia Medica*, and descriptive letter press. By Joseph Carson, M.D., Professor of *Materia Medica* in the Phila-

delphia College of Pharmacy; Member of the American Philosophical Society, &c., &c. 4to. Philadelphia: Robert P. Smith. 1847.

This beautiful book will contain one hundred colored plates, ninety of which are finished and forty published. Their execution is highly creditable to American art, and the whole "getting up" argues well for the enterprise of the young publisher.

A work of the kind has been long necessary, and now the necessity is admirably met. Dr. Carson is too well known for his erudition in this branch of "the healing art." *Materia Medica*, to require any guarantee from us that his work is in every respect equal to what it claims to be. If accuracy of drawing and coloring, with unexceptionable descriptions of the plants, and their uses constitute merit, the value of these volumes must be very great to the student of *Materia Medica*—the articles which constitute the physician's tools. The work is a standard of authority, and therefore entitled to a place in the library of every scientific physician.

*Elements of Geology, including fossil botany, and paleontology.* A popular treatise on the most interesting part of the Science. Designed for the use of Schools and general readers. By J. L. Comstock, M.D., &c., &c., &c. 12mo. pp. 432. New York: Pratt, Woodford, & Co. 1847.

DR. COMSTOCK has been long known to the public for his compilations of books on different branches of Science, written for schools and general readers. The volume before us is illustrated by 124 wood-cuts, and has a glossary of terms appended. It may be regarded as a valuable addition to the various elementary works on geology, but not superior to several now in use. The work treats of Geology not as a whole, but presents a multitude of interesting points and facts connected with the subject, which the author has not arranged in the clearest manner to exhibit to the learner what the extent of geology really is. Still, the book is a good one, and will probably lead those who read it, to seek additional knowledge in more systematic treatises.

*The History of the Church of England to the Revolution, 1688.* By Thomas Vowler Short, D.D., Bishop of Sodor and Mann. 8vo. pp. 352. New York: Stanford & Swords. 1847.

THIS is a very respectable volume. The author, though a prelate of the English Church, writes candidly, fairly, and honorably of those from whom he differs, and though honestly and sincerely attached to his own church, does not think it necessary to prove this attachment by uncalled for attacks on his neighbors. The work has met with great favor among all denominations, which is no more than it deserves. It is sufficiently full for all the purposes of readers in general, and is written in a plain, manly style, with no special attractions of that kind, it is true, but without wearying or annoying one who is interested in the topics on which it treats. We trust that this History may have large circulation, especially among those not familiar with what the Church of England really is, and what it has done in the great cause of truth. The moderation and kindness of its tone will conciliate those whose prejudices may lead them to look with unfavorable eye upon the English Church; and though they may not agree in all the author's conclusions (as we certainly do not), still they will acknowledge that he has fairly and uprightly maintained what he is persuaded is the truth.

*The Churchman's Reasons for his Faith and Practice, with an Appendix on the Doctrine of Development.* By Rev. N. I. Richardson, A.M. New York: Stanford & Swords. 1847.

WITHOUT meaning to pass an opinion upon the questions in dispute between Episcopalians and others, we must say that we rather like this book. The author's style has no pretensions to

finished grace, he dashes into his subject (not to say his opponents) with vigor and good will, and both feels strongly and speaks strongly; but we do not recollect an instance of bad temper or bad manners; we find him always in earnest, and thoroughly persuaded of the truth and importance of the doctrines of his own church. Among controversial books it ought to hold no mean place.

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[Letter from the Rev. J. R. Boyd, Author of the "Elements of Rhetoric and Literary Criticism," and "Eclectic Moral Philosophy."]

WATERTOWN, Dec. 28, 1846.

Having examined, with some care, the recent work of Prof. Mandeville, entitled a "Course of Reading," I am free to express the opinion that it possesses transcendent claims to public acceptance and use. It is not a mere collection of pieces in Prose and Verse, like the reading books in common use, but a work on the art of reading, constructed upon a plan that seems peculiarly well adapted to accomplish more, by far, than other reading books. It embraces a philosophical analysis of the English language, in its letters, elementary sounds, and various forms of sentences. The nature and uses of the various parts of speech are very properly and minutely explained as a preliminary to the classification and description of all the sentences or formulas of thought to be found in the English language. Numerous examples of each kind of sentence are given *separately*, and instruction for the manner of reading them are furnished. By this process the acquisition of the art of reading must be greatly facilitated. The next process carries the student forward to the reading of paragraphs, as found in the connexions and relations of ordinary discourse, and these are to be analysed into their component parts according to instructions previously given and acted upon in the reading of separate and classified sentences.

I agree with the author in the belief that his work is peculiarly well adapted to impart a knowledge of the structure of the English language; that it lays a broad and just foundation for an intelligent and correct delivery; that it prepares the pupil for the study of English Grammar, and indeed introduces him to a practical and useful acquaintance with not a small part of what properly belongs to the science of Grammar, but not less so to the art of Reading; and, further, that it furnishes a very happy introduction to the art of Rhetoric, or of English Composition.

The peculiarities of the work are briefly set forth by the author in the following words—"Every sentence in the language is described; and every sentence has its own delivery. The structure learned, therefore, by one, two, or at most three reviews, it is learned for ever. Henceforward as soon as a sentence falls under the observation of the pupil, he knows how it should be read; and while he can read it, he can give a solid reason for its being read in that particular manner."

Such being the general features of the work under consideration, I shall consider it a pleasing duty to make an experiment of its value with classes under my care, and to recommend the same experiment to other instructors.

J. R. BOYD, Principal Jefferson County Institute.

November 27, 1846.

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